Consumers' Guide

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Saving Land for Tomorrow's Consumers

Consumers' Queries and Comments

"This generation owes a duty to generations unborn to hand on to them an agricultural heritage which will supply this country in the future and on which they too can make a living-and let us hope a better living than this generation has made."

Henry A. Wallace
Secretary of Agriculture

"IN the GUIDE of December 31", a western consumer writes, "you describe the principles on which consumer cooperatives are founded. But those principles have legal aspects, at least in my State, that might make it difficult to incorporate a cooperative. For instance, you say that each member of a cooperative has one vote regardless of how much stock he has bought, and that he gets his dividends in proportion to the amount of purchasing he does rather than in proportion to the investment he's made in stock.

"Now in my State a corporation must operate under the usual rules that stockholders must vote according to the stock they own, and that dividends are paid in proportion to stock ownership.

"In a situation like this, how can a cooperative incorporate? Or should a cooperative operate on an unincorporated basis?"

ANSWERING the last part of the question first, it is possible for a cooperative to operate without being incorporated, but it's risky because in that case each member is responsible for the whole society's obligations, so in case of failure there might be some serious individual hardships. It's safer to be incorporated, for then the cooperative has the same legal position as other corporations. They can sue and be sued, and the members are not individually responsible for the debts beyond the amount of their membership fee or stock.

Our correspondent is right in realizing that the usual incorporation laws present a problem to budding cooperatives. But 34 States have laws that specifically provide for the incorporation of consumers' cooperatives. These laws are not uniform, and some of them don't make it possible to follow the most satisfactory principles of cooperatives. But others are better. The Wisconsin act, for instance, is made to order for the needs of consumers' cooperative societies.

In some other States without cooperative laws, the laws applying to nonprofit corporations such as churches, schools, or fraternal lodges can sometimes be used by cooperatives. But the possibility is not the same in every State.

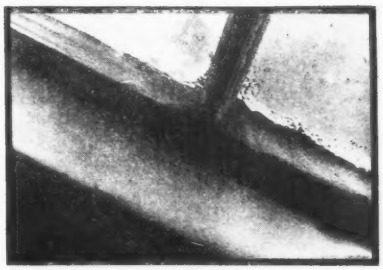
FARMERS may organize to market farm products cooperatively in every State except Delaware. Though their purposes are different from a city consumers' cooperative, the laws usually allow collective purchase of machinery or supplies. So groups of farmers in States without general consumers' cooperative laws may organize to buy their supplies cooperatively by incorporating under the provisions of the farm cooperative marketing act of their State, although other consumers have not the same privilege.

CONSUMERS thinking of organizing a cooperative may check on their legal position by means of a mimeographed publication, "Synopses of Individual Laws", obtainable from the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

NEWEST addition to the literature on consumers' cooperatives is a mimeographed bibliography published by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce, called "Consumers' Cooperative Societies: Basic Information Sources" which lists 26 pages of titles of Government and non-Government American publications and those of other countries telling consumers about the history and present status of the cooperative movement, detailed information about specific cooperative groups, and all published data helpful to beginning cooperators. This bibliography is free to consumers who write for it.

"COOPERATIVE associations of farmers", reports an officer of the Baltimore Bank for Cooperatives, "came through the depression without a failure of major importance." Some, it is true, have gone under, but in no case was the failure of more than local importance.

SAVING LAND FOR TOMORROW'S CONSUMERS



Dust rides the wind, seeps into homes to settle inches deep on window sills.

Shall tomorrow's consumers look to a land stripped of its fertility for their food and clothing, or shall today's consumers join with farmers in conserving and enhancing the richness of our land?

Desolation after a 1935 dust storm.

BEFORE this year is out, consumers in this country will eat somewhere near 150 billion pounds of food. They will use up over 20 billion board feet of lumber. They will purchase some 2½ billion pounds of cotton and wool materials.

ALL of these necessities of life must come from the soil, most of them from our own land. Behind the shops that make them immediately available, behind the factories that transform raw materials into useful forms, behind the railroads, ships, and trucks, that carry them from distant places, behind the farmers who grow the raw materials—behind all these and making their operations possible is a thin layer of earth. Out of that soil must come much of the stuff that makes daily living possible for some 125 million people.

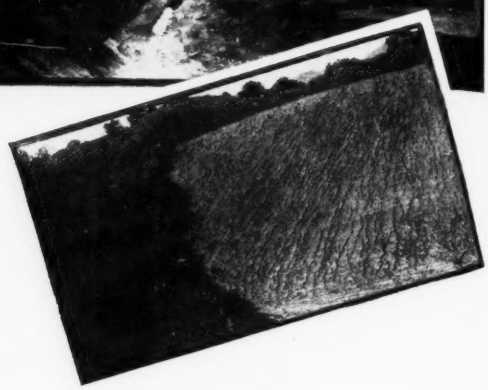
VISIONARIES predict that many of these necessities one day will come to us from electrical contraptions in the home, or from factories which have learned the alchemy of translating a handful of chemicals into bins of food, or yards of fabric, or plastics with which to build and equip our houses.

ALREADY dairy farms abroad, they report, are experimenting with cabinets in which seed corn grows a foot high in ten days and produces five times the volume of seed planted in the ground. Experimenters predict the time will come when consumers can grow their year-round supply of greenstuffs by planting some seeds in cabinets in their homes. Making machines instead of cows do the work of manufacturing milk will be another achievement, they claim. Scientists here are testing ways of raising sheep on "synthetic" foods. Synthetic silk is in daily use by millions of consumers. Synthetic cotton

already can be had. Plastics are taking the place of many things formerly made of wood.

SOME of these alchemies of science we can put to use today. But for this year, next year, and many years to come, today's consumers and their children must look to the soil as the main source of their food, their clothing, and other material needs.

SO ESSENTIAL a possession as this needs cherishing and care. To people living close to the land, the fact that land and its fertile topsoil is not a permanent thing, lying there year after year and ready to do its best for human needs, is no news. But for millions of consumers, remote from sources of supplies, it sometimes takes a catastrophe to make them aware of the roots of living, and to provide a warning that these roots must be preserved.



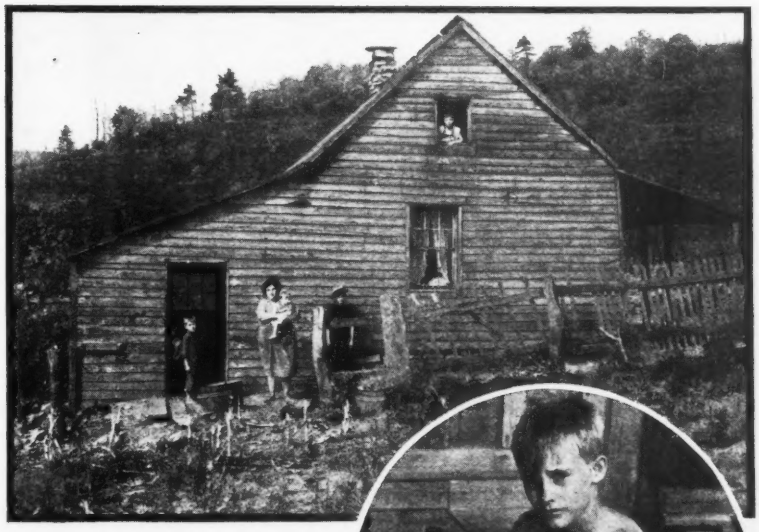
DUST storms in the past two years have provided such dramatic warnings. For the first time in history, winds swept great clouds of dust from the West across the country to cast a yellow gloom over cities two thousand miles away, along the Atlantic Coast. Some of these clouds even swept beyond, and were sighted 300 miles out to sea. In Texas, 1935 dust storms piled up drifts 20 feet high, stretching sometimes a quarter mile across fields and fences. In western Kansas two dust storms carried away from 40 to 80 tons of soil per acre.

Gullies and hillsides like these show faulty land use. Thousands of acres have been allowed to wash away taking their owners' livelihood with them. Soil Conservation Service is showing how to prevent such devastation.

WIND erosion, set in motion by "man-made forces", the conservationists say, has transformed 5 million acres of good land into waste areas since May 1934. Some 60 million acres more, they say are in process of destruction by the same cause unless controlled.

CLOUD bursts and heavy rains, which take their toll from the land, point warning

Sub-standard living is the lot of thousands of farm folk on poor land. They need outside help to get on their feet.



fingers, too. Two years ago in a bean and orchard district in southern California a single rain of 2¾ inches washed away 525 tons of earth an acre, and left behind land which was not simply damaged but ruined for food-growing purposes.

NEWS of the desolation that follows in the trail of these great winds and storms comes headlined to city consumers.

NOT HEADLINED are the less dramatic, more insidious, losses of soil which are going on all the time. They, too, are stealing away the original source of our necessities of life or adding needlessly to their cost.

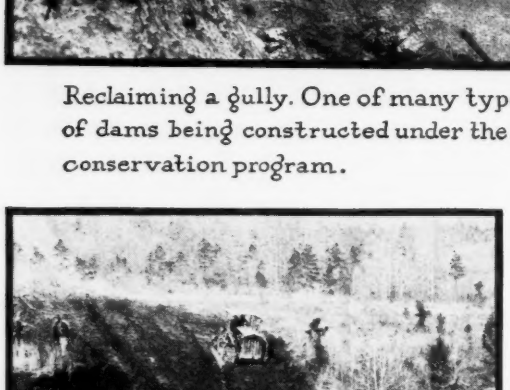
TWO kinds of losses loom largest: one caused by wind and water erosion; the other caused by over-cropping, or over-cultivating land. Actual loss of soil results from the first. Loss of fertility is the penalty imposed by both.

CONSERVING soil means both controlling erosion and maintaining fertility. In some areas, soil impoverishment is due to one, in some to the other cause. In the last generation we have added enormously to our knowledge—if not to our practice—of the technique of rebuilding soil fertility. Less familiar is the cure of erosion.

RAINS, big and little, are constantly at work on our many acres. They may come as a benediction of the earth, to give greater life to growing things, but if the land that receives them can not absorb and hold the water, they carry away with them soil which has taken centuries to produce.

Families such as these are struggling against terrific handicaps because land on which they depended for a living has "moved out from under them."

Reclaiming a gully. One of many types of dams being constructed under the soil conservation program.



Banks of deep gullies are graded and planted with soil binding vegetation.

Building a dam of asphalted bags in a spillway in the southwest. Note pipes at the side for relieving winter pressure.

MORE than three-quarters of our country is sloping land. On all this land which is used for growing crops or grazing animals, water—not controlled—can work permanent damage. It has done so in the past, is doing so today, and will continue unless care is taken to protect the soil against "erosion", or wearing away.

TOPPING these lands is a productive soil which is only about 7 to 8 inches deep. From these few inches must come our bread, our vegetables, our milk and meat, our shirts and socks, our thousands of other foods and clothes. How those inches of soil are cared for means as much ultimately to city consumers as to the farmers.

TWO YEARS ago the Soil Conservation Service made a survey of all the country to get a general idea of the damage which wind and water erosion had done to our soil. The National Resources Board has been studying the question, too. From these sources come these figures:

OUR country covers some 1,902 million acres. Of this total, close to 1,000 million can be classed as agricultural land. About 600 million acres of this agricultural land is crop land which has been tilled in the past, is being tilled now, or is suitable for tilling in the future.

MORE arresting are these discoveries: Three-quarters of these 600 million acres of past, present, or future crop land are subject to erosion. Already about 200 million are seriously impoverished.

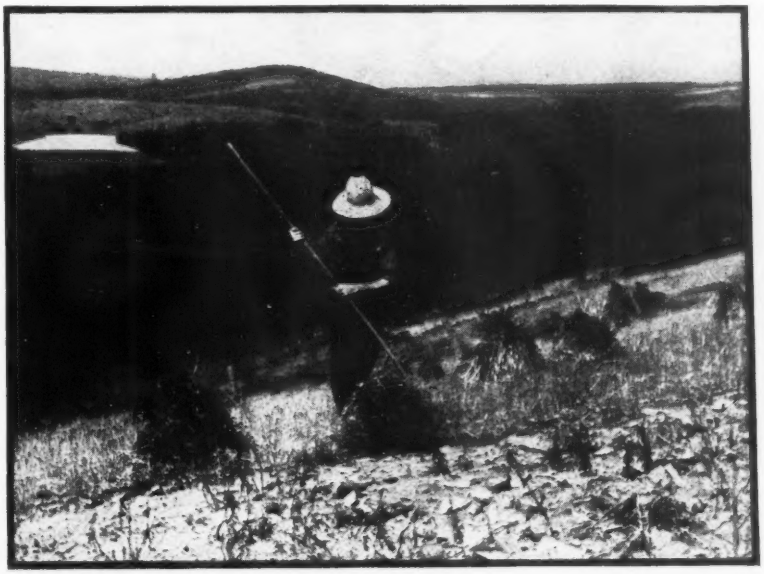
"WE can boast the banishment of our last frontier", says the

Soil Conservation Service, but "we can also boast the most colossal achievement in soil wastage the world has ever witnessed in the same length of time."

CONSERVATION measures must focus on all the present and potential crop land which is threatened with erosion, but the immediate job is to look to the land which is now used for agricultural purposes.

UNTIL agricultural adjustment programs came along, we were using about 360 million acres for harvested crops. Fertility of the soil has been reduced virtually throughout this area and must be rebuilt. Erosion, says the Soil Conservation Service, has ruined 50 million acres. The major concern is that soil losses shall be stopped on the remaining 310 million acres.

MILLIONS of gullies, which never existed when we started to farm our country, now run across its face like cracks on a chapped hand. Many of them have cut their way into precious land and are carrying away what might be used for growing clothes and food for people.



Three-quarters of our country is sloping land. On all this land which is used for growing crops or grazing animals, water-not controlled-can work permanent damage.

SCHOOL books do not tell the tale. We have grown up innocently believing that our wealth in soil is as great today as it was when the last foot of land was acquired. All of the little rocks and rills prettily pictured seem to have been there from the beginning of time. They beguile us with their charm. Seldom if ever do we pause to question how they came about and what their coming has cost us.

THIEF-LIKE, this wearing away of valuable soil goes on year after year. Three billion tons of soil are lost from fields and pastures every year, a loss put by the Soil Conservation Service at 400 million dollars a year. Losses grow proportionately greater as, inch by inch, the valuable topsoil gives way. During the next 50 years they may total as much as 30 billion dollars, unless we learn and use new ways of caring for our soil.

EROSION costs do not stop with these soil losses. Their human costs mount high. Farms stripped of their soil wealth mean bankrupt farmers. They mean poorer food, poorer housing, tattered clothing, children undernourished, and lacking normal opportunities. Many of the one million farm families who have had to be cared for by the Federal Government during the past 2 years, had been trying to make a living on land which could no longer support them.

NOR do these costs stop at the doorsteps of the bankrupt farmers. What little produce such farmers can bring to market is enough to pull down prices which farmers on good lands receive. That in turn forces farmers on good lands to overwork their soil in order to make ends meet.

HERE, then is the problem. We have 125 million and more consumers to feed and clothe.

Terraced wheatfield on an Erosion Experiment Farm in the middlewest.

Strips of summer wheat seeded on the contour in a summer-fallow field to retard the down-wash of soil.

We are doing the job now by using up or letting waste away the source of materials original for these needs. Next generation's consumers—possibly 15 million more than we are—must look to this soil for their food and clothing. What can we do to farm our soil and keep it, too, and so increase our own chances for a good living and those of tomorrow's consumers?

OBVIOUSLY our soil has wasted away in the past because it has not been used wisely, but why?

PART of the answer lies in farmers' ignorance of wise soil-conserving methods. Most of it is due to failure, largely because of immediate economic pressure, to put such methods into practice.

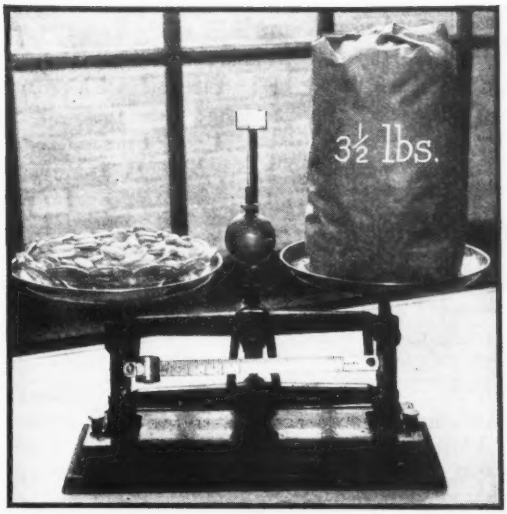
NATURE has its own protectors—trees, grass, shrubs, that hold the soil in place. When people come along and destroy this protective covering, by burning forest or grasslands, ploughing and cultivating cleared land, overgrazing, they expose the fertile topsoil to the rain. Crops which humans want from the soil do not hold the soil in place as tightly, surely, as nature's guardians.

WATER erosion then has its chance. Rain, which cannot penetrate or is not held by the soil, flows across cultivated fields, picks up fine fertile particles. Little rivulets—running, perhaps, along a rut from a cartwheel—

[Concluded on page 31]

Nuts for Extra Nutrition

Festive touches on the menu can make valuable additions to the diet.



It takes a bag this big of almonds in the shell to give the pound of nut meats in the dish.

FOOD FADDISTS claim that nuts are enough for a well-fed life. Nutrition specialists say this is an exaggeration. But after the scientific sifting of fact and fallacy, plenty of reasons remain to justify a real place on the marketing list for treats in the form of nuts.

WHETHER TASTE or food value stimulates your hunger for nuts, it stands to be well satisfied this year. Big nut crops are on the cards. The pecan crop is the biggest on record. The total production of walnuts, pecans, almonds, and filberts is almost half again as big as usual. The peanut crop is breaking all records. When you count the nuts we gather from our wild American trees--black walnuts, hickory nuts, butternuts, hazelnuts, beechnuts and pine-nuts--the total adds up to a staggering tonnage. For many years we have been growing more and more nuts, importing less and less. Between 1920 and 1927 we raised our yearly per capita eating average of nuts other than peanuts from 2 pounds to 3 pounds. During the depression we dropped back to 2 pounds apiece. As consumer incomes go up, Government nut experts are forecasting that our nut consumption, especially of native nuts, will rise again.

PEANUTS, botanically not true nuts at all, nevertheless lead the field in the taste of nut consumers. As nuts, in candy, in peanut butter, we usually eat twice as much of peanuts as we do of all other nuts combined. Probably because peanuts are always cheaper than other nuts, we gave a still bigger edge to peanuts over other nuts during the depression. In the years 1931-32 and 1932-33, our annual consumption of peanuts in these forms went up to an average of more than 400,000 tons, almost three times the consumption of all other nuts combined. Since then more of the peanut crop has been going into peanut oil, as shortage of other fats has opened up new market possibilities for peanuts. This year's crop of peanuts for all purposes promises to total 620,000 tons, or more than a billion pounds.

WALNUTS take second place in consumer favor. Over a third of the commercially raised "tree nuts" we ate last year were the so-called "English" walnuts, which actually originated in Persia and came to us by way of England. Now five-sixths of those we eat are raised on our own west coast. Most of the imported sixth comes from China.

PECANS, headlining native nuts, have come 'way up in popularity in the last few years, crowding almonds out of their position in American consumption and showing signs of serious competition with "English" walnuts. Pecans

make up one-fifth of the tree nuts we eat nowadays. Pushing in this direction is the rapid development of the new improved varieties—"paper shell" to the lay consumer. This year's pecan production is almost twice as big as the average for the 5 years 1930-34.

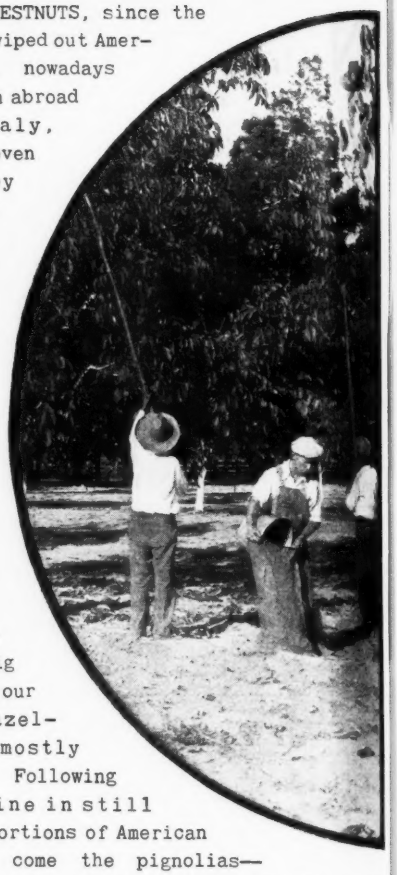
CASHEW NUTS have skyrocketed overnight into fourth place in America's nut eating. Only 5 years ago, in the year 1929-30, this exclusively imported nut accounted for just about one three-hundredth of our nut consumption, not counting peanuts. By 1930-31 it had jumped to one-twentieth, and in 1931-32 up again to one-twelfth, and the last figures—1934-35—show us eating one pound of cashew nuts in every seven pounds of "tree nuts." The experts figure we haven't seen the end of this trend, which is contrary to the general falling off of nut imports.

BRAZIL NUTS, which are all imported, accounted for almost one-eighth of the tree nuts we ate in 1934-35.

ALMONDS have been on the toboggan in American taste since 1919. Then they ranked first in consumption (always excluding peanuts). Now they rank fifth. From the three-quarters of a pound which Americans on the average ate in that year we have cut our consumption down to a yearly per capita average of one quarter of a pound. And the end is not yet in sight.

Classifying walnuts according to color.

CHESTNUTS, since the blight that wiped out American trees, nowadays all come from abroad—from Italy, Spain, and even Japan. They make up about one-twentieth of the tree nuts we eat. Then come filberts, big brothers to our own wild hazelnuts, also mostly imported. Following down the line in still smaller proportions of American consumption come the pignolias—the imported kind of 'pine nut'—pistachios, and others in too small quantity to have their shares reported.



Harvest season for California walnuts.

DEPRESSION brought loss to nut growers in the United States. Consumers could not spend the necessary amount of money to give growers sufficient income to pay them for producing the increasing crops of American nuts. During the years 1927-28 to 1930-31 growers received an average of better than 17 cents a pound for pecans, walnuts, and almonds. This price had come down to an average of 8.3 cents in 1932. Peanuts, always much lower in price than other nuts, dropped in the same period from nearly 5 cents a pound at the farm in 1928 to 1½ cents a pound in 1932.

CONTROL PROGRAMS were requested by nut producers to lift the burden of surplus nuts which was pushing prices down to loss levels. The chief trouble spots were in the walnut, pecan, and peanut industries.

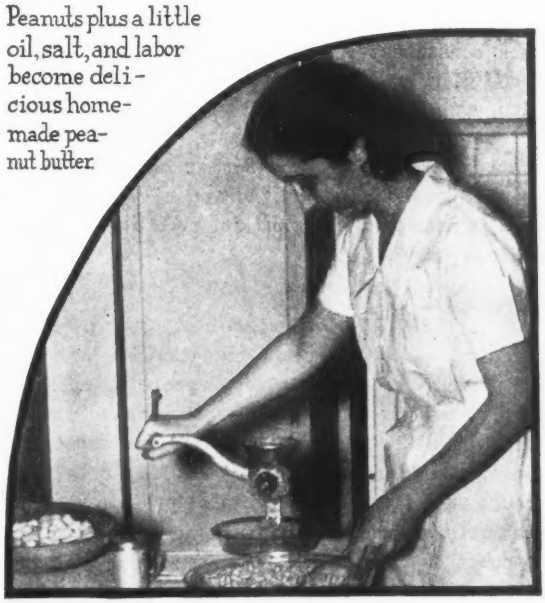
Peanuts growing in North Carolina.

WALNUT HANDLERS worked together in 1933, 1934, and 1935 under AAA marketing agreements to protect the American unshelled walnut industry. By the terms of all three agreements, only 70 percent of each year's supply of 'merchantable' walnuts may be marketed in the regular unshelled form. The supply means the total nuts on hand including both current crop and carryover from previous years. 'Merchantable' nuts means those grading high enough to go into the unshelled nut trade. Ordinarily only culls are sold in shelled form, which with imports from China make up nearly all the walnuts we buy already shelled. But under the terms of the control programs, the 30 percent 'surplus' is turned over to the walnut control board, to be exported or marketed in the form of shelled nuts.

PECAN HANDLERS are signing a tentatively approved pecan program which would stipulate grading and price filing, and eliminate certain unfair trade practices, but would not control volume of production or marketing. This agreement would affect only the pecans sold unshelled. This includes all improved "papershell" varieties of pecans which are always marketed in their shells. Most seedling pecans go to market only after shelling. Normally the improved pecans sold in their shells make up about one-quarter of the total. This year, with a bumper crop which throws all normal proportions out of balance, 16½ million pounds out of a total crop of 95 million pounds are of the improved varieties, due to go to market in their shells.

PEANUT CROPS, so record-breaking as those of 1931 and 1932, both over the billion-pound mark, with low consumer incomes to buy them, brought loss to the farmer. At the 1932 average farm price of less than 1½ cents a pound, growers' income hit a low of under 13 million dollars for the year, a drop by almost two-thirds from their 35½ million dollar income in 1928. To correct this impossible situation, a marketing agreement was negotiated with peanut shellers and became effective in January 1934. Technical difficulties prevented this becoming entirely effective, and experience led to a new plan which went into effect in October 1934. With a tremendous crop of over a billion pounds threatening to depress prices, a "diversion program" was agreed upon (see CONSUMERS' GUIDE, December 17, 1934). Under its terms growers received diversion payments on peanuts sold to be crushed for oil which would give them sufficient total return for their nuts to compete with the price they could get from the shelled-goods trade. Out of the 914 million pounds of peanuts actually offerred for sale during the year, about 153 million pounds were diverted into manufacture of peanut oil and its byproducts. Due to the program that made this possible, and the higher average incomes consumers

Peanuts plus a little oil, salt, and labor become delicious home-made peanut butter.



were receiving which enabled them to pay the cost of the program at the rate of about one cent a pound on the retail price of peanuts, peanut growers received an average of 3¼ cents a pound for their peanut crop, bringing their income from peanuts for the year up to 29¾ million dollars. And practically no unsold stock remained to handicap the next year's peanut market.

THE 1935 CROP totals even bigger than 1934's, breaking all records. Under a new diversion program which took effect last Fall, 118 million pounds of peanuts have been diverted or purchased subject to diversion, and the farm price for the year held at an average of 3.2 cents a pound, raising growers' total income from peanuts for the year to 34¼ million dollars. Contracts under this program have now expired. Unless consumers through still higher incomes are willing to buy a much larger proportion of peanuts than usual in the form of nuts, candy, and peanut butter, or unless new means are found to divert more peanuts into other channels, farmers and manufacturers stand to have a sizable left-over of their peanuts on their hands at the beginning of next season.

CONSUMERS have been consistently lucky in these years of high production and lowering retail prices of nuts. "Soup to nuts" used to mean a festive company dinner. Now we can buy pecans in the nut shop on the corner at prices that used to mean peanuts. And all nuts are bargains in food value.

PROTEIN leads the list of nut recommendations. Nut protein, like that in eggs and milk and meat, is "efficient" protein, able to help us build and repair body tissues. But before you make high-wide-and-handsome substitutions, consider the impracticability of eating enough nuts to get your quota of protein when in most nuts you must eat so much fat along with it. So count on nuts as a supplementary, not exclusive, source of protein supply.

COMPARE COSTS OF SHELLED AND UNSHELLED NUTS

To get one pound of nut meats you need these pounds unshelled:

	Pounds
Almonds	3⅓
Brazil nuts	2½
Chestnuts	1½
Filberts	2¼
Peanuts	1½
Pecans:	
Seedlings	2½
Stuart (Improved variety)	2½
Schley (Improved variety)	1⅔
Pistachios	3
Pignolias	1½
Walnuts ("English")	2½

FAT CONTENT varies with the variety of nut. Proportion ranges from a low in coconuts of one-third fat, through almonds—about half fat—up to pecans which are almost three-quarters fat. The proportion of fat in most nuts ranges between one-half and two-thirds. This puts nuts definitely on the spot reserved for fuel value, and calls for wariness about uses that would double the richness of dishes or meals already rich. Most nuts have a calory count of well over 3,000 calories per pound, or equal to the entire day's requirement of fuel value for an active man.

EXCEPTION to this general rule of oiliness in nuts is the chestnut with only one-third the calory count of the pecan, and that made up almost entirely of carbohydrates. Coconut meat comes not much higher in fuel value but lacks also, the high protein values of the typical nut. Peanuts, almonds, and cashew nuts, while further up the fuel value scale, are not in the high fat-content class of pecans, walnuts, hickory nuts, filberts, butternuts, and Brazil nuts.

IRON in good supply comes with natural, unblanched nut kernels, especially those of almonds, hazelnuts, walnuts, pecans, and hickory nuts. Phosphorous is richly provided by most nuts.

VITAMINS are not an important contribution of nuts, though most nuts are good sources of Vitamin B, the "appetite vitamin." Some nuts offer a fair supply of Vitamin A, too, which helps to stand off certain infections.

BEST USES for nuts, then, are in dishes and in meals where the fat is short, and the protein can well stand reenforcement. In salads, as stuffing and topping, and flavor accents for vegetable dishes, in loaves for main courses, and to dress up and give body to modest desserts—these are the places on the menu that call loudest for nuts.

ECONOMY carried to its ultimate possibility would call for careful calculation as to

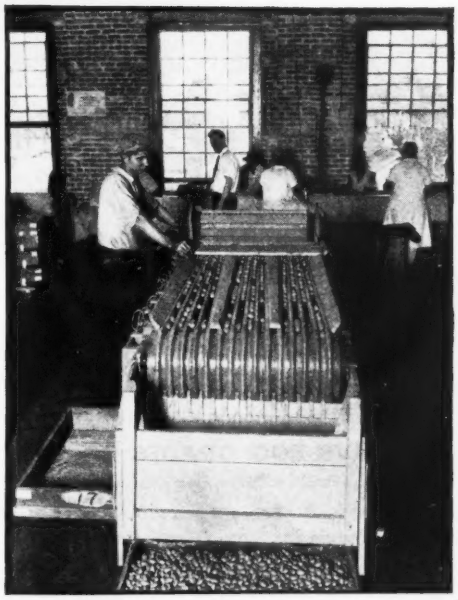
Modern cultivating methods have helped in the pecan's swift drive toward the top among nut crops.

whether to buy nuts shelled or in the shell. At first glance it seems obvious that by doing the labor yourself you can save money. But do a little figuring first. Get the prices of nuts shelled and unshelled in your store. Use the table on page 12 which shows how many pounds of nuts in the shell it takes to give you one pound of nut meats.

PRICES in one Washington nutshop gave us these results: "English" walnuts, for instance, cost 85 cents a pound already shelled. That sounds expensive. With their shells on they cost 35 cents a pound. But wait. To get one pound of shelled nut meats we must buy 2½ pounds of the unshelled nuts at 35 cents a pound, totaling 88 cents, as against 85 cents for the equivalent nuts already shelled. In the case of almonds, we were quoted 95 cents a pound for the shelled nuts and 38 cents a pound for the unshelled. It takes 3⅓ pounds of unshelled almonds to give a pound of meats, so we would have to pay almost $1.27 for what we could get for 95 cents if we passed up the heavy labor.

SOME USES, of course, call for nuts in the shell. For after-dinner nibbling from the fruit and nut bowl before the fire, the nut-cracker seems indicated. On the other hand, there seems little point in spending extra money for the privilege of cracking nuts that are to be chopped up for nut bread, cakes, and candy.

HYGIENE raises a question in the minds of many consumers on the point of shelled versus unshelled nuts. Doubt on that score seems entirely logical, since a hand-processed, uncooked product is wide open to contamination. It can only be as clean as the hands that did the work, and the precautions of cleanliness depend entirely on the conscience and efficiency of the packing company. Consumers who plan to use nuts in ways which give them a thorough cooking can feel safe in buying them shelled. For raw uses it seems obvious that the unshelled nut boasts the advantage of absolute safety in its natural germ-free package.



Pecans grading themselves with the help of a machine.

One way a popular American nut goes to market.

Do You Know Your Egg Laws?

Low-priced egg months are coming—March, April, and May—when wise consumers plan for more eggs in the family menu.

RESEARCHERS for the National Association of Marketing Officials have completed the big job of compiling and studying egg laws and grades in the country.

TWO hundred egg laws, they find, have been passed by State and local governments in the last 25 years. Some 10 percent of them have been repealed. About 70 percent have been passed into the limbo of the forgotten. Only 20 percent are now being rigidly enforced.

MANY of the latter are laws which have little immediate importance to consumers, but knowledge of two kinds of laws—on grades and sizes—should be part of the equipment of buyers who want to know quality values before they buy.

EGG standards are not yardsticks of food nutrients but of other quality characteristics, including size.

VARIATION in the amount of food nutrients in eggs is not important except in respect to vitamins. Egg yolks contain Vitamins A, B, D, and G. The amount of Vitamins B and G is about the same in all eggs. Vitamin A varies considerably, depending on the diet of the hen, the number of eggs which the hen lays, and on time in the egg-laying season. Vitamin D can

20 STATES HAVE EGG GRADES OF THEIR OWN

State	*Best grade*	*Second grade*	*Third grade*	*Fourth grade*
New York*	Fancy	"A"	"B"	"C."
California*	Specials	Extras	Standard	Trade.
Florida*	Florida fresh	Shipped	Cold storage.	
Michigan*	Fancy	"A"	"B"	"C."
Minnesota* (retail)	Minnesota "A" No. 1	Minnesota "A" Medium	Minnesota "B" No. 1.	
Nevada*	Large, special	Large, extra	Large, standard.	
North Carolina*	Fresh North Carolina	Cold storage	Processed, shipped.	
North Dakota*	"A"	"B"	Undergrade.	
South Carolina*	South Carolina fresh	Cold storage	Shipped.	
Wyoming*	Wyoming fresh	Fresh-out-of-State	Cold storage	Preserved.
Arizona	Arizona fresh.			
Connecticut	Fancy and special	Connecticut, extra	Connecticut, gathered.	
Georgia	Extra	Standard	Trade	Yard run.
Illinois	Grade "A" hennery	Grade "B", strictly fresh	Grade "C", fresh	Grade "D", edible.
Iowa	Grade 1 special	Grade 2	Grade 3	U. S. lower grades.
Kentucky	Grade "A" (extras)	Grade "B" (firsts)	Grade "C" (seconds).	
Maryland	Fresh	Large 24-oz. doz.	Medium 21-oz. doz.	Small 18-oz. doz.
Rhode Island	Special	Fresh	Processed.	
Vermont	Vermont fancy	Vermont medium	Vermont pullet	Vermont "A."
Wisconsin	Wisconsin grade "A"	Wisconsin grade "B"	Wisconsin undergrade.	

* Grading in these States is compulsory.

vary, also, according to the kind of feed and the amount of sunlight which the hen receives. Between one egg and another on the market these days there is probably little difference in this vitamin, however, since most hens are being fed a ration to which cod liver oil has been added.

AGE is still a quality standard in some laws, yet scientific studies show that it is a poor index. One study proved that eggs kept at a temperature of 100 degrees will deteriorate as much in 3 days as eggs kept at 33 degrees for 100 days. Cold storage eggs which have been stored so that they are fit to eat probably show little loss in food nutrients.

DISTANCE from point of production is no measure of quality, either, provided the eggs have been handled with ordinary care and kept at the right temperature between their laying and their selling.

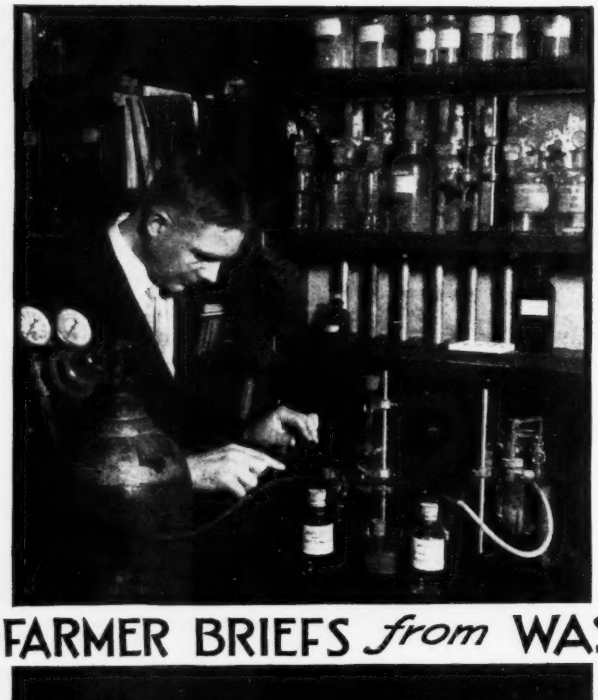
UNITED STATES grades, worked out by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, are voluntary. Any dealer can have the expert services of this Bureau's graders, provided he pays the small cost involved. The cost of grading 25 cases, each of them holding 30 dozen eggs is only $1.50, or 0.2 cent a dozen. Many eggs are sold today under these grades. Eggs graded by these agents can then be marketed with a seal on the carton which shows the grade and either the date when the grading was done or a marker reading: "Not to be sold after (date)."

[Concluded on page 31]

SIZE STANDARDS FOR EGGS
(Dozen Weight)

State	*Large*	*Medium*	*Small or pullet*	*Peewee*	*Over-grades*
Arizona	24 oz.	NL* 20 oz.	NL* 16 oz.		
California	NL 23½ oz.	NL 20 oz.	NL 16 oz.	Under 15 oz.	
Colorado (1st and 2d grades only).	NL 24 oz.	NL 20½ oz.	NL 17 oz.		
Connecticut	NL 24 oz.	21 oz. av.	Less than 20 oz. but at least 18 oz.	Others	Extra large 24 oz. av., 23 oz. min.
Delaware	23 oz. or over.	21 and 22 oz.	19 and 20 oz.	Under 19 oz.	
Florida	NL 24 oz.	NL 20½ oz.	NL 17½ oz.		Extra large, NL 27 oz.
Georgia	24 oz. av.	20½ oz. av.	17½ oz. av.		
Kentucky	Av. 24 oz. (2 eggs at 22-oz. rate allowable).	22 oz. (2 eggs at 20-oz. rate allowable).			
Louisiana (U. S. grades).	Uniformly large.	22½ oz.	22½ oz.		
Maine (U. S. grades).	NL 24 oz.	NL 21 oz.	Cooking, 20 oz.		
Maryland	NL 24 oz.	NL 21 oz.	NL 18 oz.		
Minnesota	23 oz. av.	20 oz. av.			"A" No. 1, av. 24 oz.
Montana (U. S. grades).	24 oz. av.	20½ oz. av.	17 oz. av.		
Nebraska	Specials, 24 oz. net.	Extra 24 oz. net.	Standards, 22 oz. and up.		
Nevada (U. S. grades).	Extras, 24 oz. av.	20 oz. av.	16 oz. av.		Large special, 26 oz. av.
New Hampshire	NL 24 oz.	NL 21½ oz.	NL 19 oz.	Less.	
New Jersey	NL 24 oz.	NL 21 oz.			
New York	NL 24 oz.	NL 20½ oz.	Less than 20½ oz.		
North Dakota	NL 24 oz.	NL 23 oz.	Av. 20 oz.		
Pennsylvania	24 oz.	21 oz.	17 oz. av.		
Rhode Island	24 oz. av.	21 oz. av.	18 oz. av.		
Utah	24 oz. av.	20½ oz. av.	17 oz. av.		
Vermont	24 oz. av.	21 oz. av.	19 oz. av.		
Wisconsin	NL 24 oz.	NL 21 oz.			

*NL means: Not less than.



CONSUMER-FARMER BRIEFS *from* WASHINGTON

Degree of acidity or alkalinity plays an important part in plant growth. Some plants require an acid soil, some prefer an alkaline one. Here a chemist in the Soil Investigations Division of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is determining the acidity of soil.

FARMERS improved their position in 1935 over 1934 to the tune of 12 percent more gross income, 10 percent more in cash income, and the largest return for their labor, capital, and management for any year since 1929.

GROSS INCOME of farmers for 1935, according to economists in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics who report on the farm situation, was $8,110,000,000, compared with about 7¼ billion in 1934, and 5⅓ billion in 1932, the lowest point of the depression. This estimate of increased gross income includes rental and benefit payments, but final figures for 1935 will probably show a decrease in these payments of more than 100 million dollars from 1934.

EXPENSES of farmers, including wages, taxes, interest, rent, and depreciation of buildings and equipment, did not go up during 1935 as much as farmers' income, so that their net income left after allowing for these expenditures was greater than the year before and larger than for any year since 1929. Though this return on their capital, labor, and management is 72 percent of what farmers were able to make in 1929, it is still three times what they made in 1932.

PRODUCTION volume was about the same as in 1934, with bigger output of grains, cotton, vegetables, and fruits balanced by smaller production of meat animals, livestock products, and poultry. But high prices allowed both grain crops and animal products to bring in more income in 1935 than in 1934, in spite of the fact that the crops were larger and the livestock numbers smaller.

BIGGEST GAINS went to the Eastern Corn Belt States, Kentucky, Oklahoma, and the Mountain States. Only eight States received less income than in 1934, those mostly in the South Atlantic region which showed the smallest general improvement.

MOST encouraging factor in farmers' present situation, according to economists in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, is "that the last year actually has improved the farmer's position relative to other productive groups. Not all farmers have shared fully in this—eastern dairymen and potato growers for instance—but it is true of the industry as a whole."

RESULTS of farmers' relative prosperity have already started going down the line to improve the situation of other groups. People who make and sell clothing, house furnishings, farm machinery, automobiles, and building materials have felt the biggest benefit of this new farm buying. General stores in small towns sold goods coming to 1/5 more dollars in the first 11 months of 1935 than in the same time during 1934. Though this was only 4/5 of the dollar volume of these stores, sales in the same part of 1929, and allowance for the difference in prices would show that these 1935 dollars bought almost as much goods as the 1929 dollars did. An even more startling indication is that of the mail-order houses which supply needs of farm families. They reported bigger sales than for the first 11 months of any year since 1929, and if the price level is taken into account the figures represent more merchandise sold than in the same period of any year on record.

AAA

1,000 CREDIT UNIONS organized under Federal charter in 16 months is the record announced by the Farm Credit Administration on January 31. Each month has shown a faster rate of increase, last figures indicating 100 new credit unions to the month, which according to present estimates will soon be doubled.

AAA

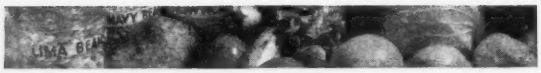
TWO university cities announce progress in the field of consumer cooperatives. The Ohio Farm Bureau Cooperative Association following its regular line of promoting city consumers' cooperatives, helped a group of Columbus consumers to organize a cooperative oil station which also serves as the buying agent for coal, fuel oil, and dry cleaning. Consumers in Madison, Wis., have organized three cooperative oil stations, a cleaning and pressing cooperative, restaurant, milk route, coalyard, fuel oil business, and several credit unions. The oil cooperative with a coalyard in connection did a business of $18,000 in 1935 and passed 8 percent in savings back to purchasers.

AAA

WOMAN'S WORK does not require the amount of energy food usually recommended for women in dietary standards, according to the results of a study by New York State College of Home Economics of Cornell University at Ithaca. The study is based on estimates of energy per kilogram of weight per hour used up in various activities such as preparing meals, washing dishes, carrying wood and water, ironing, sewing, etc., and the amount of energy taken in in food by individual farm women. The results show that about 2,500 to 2,600 calories a day are enough for farm women not regularly engaged in actual farm labor. For the average town or city housewife this study shows about 2,200 to 2,300 calories a day are needed. Usually dietary scales and standards in general use in America call for 2,700 to 3,000 calories for farm women and 2,400 to 2,500 for the women "at moderately active work" which most people interpret as housework. On that basis the conclusion of the study is that "these scales and standards tend to overestimate the energy needs of women generally." This conclusion does not of course mean that too good a diet is ordinarily recommended for women, but simply too many calories of energy, which is quite a different matter since the highest energy foods are not the most complete from the point of view of healthful nutrition.

AAA

MEAT GRADING reports for 1935 show a long step taken over the years before. Nearly 320 million pounds of meat were sold under the stamp of Federal graders, as compared with 255½ million in 1933 and about 283 million pounds in 1934, meaning an increase of about 25 percent in graded meat in 2 years. The sharpest rise was in sausage and ground meats of which nearly 20 times as many pounds were graded in 1935 as in 1933. Lamb showed a strong rise too, coming up from 8 million pounds in 1933 and 9⅓ million in 1934 to 17½ million pounds in 1935. Grading of cured pork almost doubled.



REPORTS for February 11 showed another small drop in the average cost of foods. At the end of 1935 retail food prices averaged 82.5 percent of the 1923-25 average. This was the highest point reached since the spring of 1931. At the low point early in 1933 retail food prices were about 60 percent of the 1923-25 average. The increase from the spring of 1933 to the end of 1935 represented a rise of a little over one-third in the cost of food.

DURING the first 6 weeks of 1936 food costs dropped slowly but steadily. The index stood at 82.5 on December 31, 1935, at 81.7 on January 14, 1936, at 80.7 on January 28, and at 80.6 on February 11.

TWO facts stand out: First, that although there have been substantial decreases in prices of a few important foods, the index of food costs in general has not yet dropped very much; second, that the rate of the price drop appeared to be slowing up in February.

PROSPECTS appear to be for some further drop of food prices during the next few months. Food prices later in the year will be influenced a great deal by prospective crop conditions.

THE Bureau of Labor Statistics reports decreases from January 28 to February 11 in the prices of six of the eight commodity groups, while prices of dairy products and eggs advanced. The increase in egg prices at this time of the year is unusual. It was due to the extreme cold weather which existed in a large part of the country. Hens do not lay so well in cold weather, and the cold weather, together with storms, makes it difficult to ship eggs and many other commodities. Severe winter weather in January and February had a strengthening effect on the prices of a number of foods and it is likely that if weather conditions had been more normal a greater drop in food prices would have occurred.

FREEZES in the South often occur at this time of the year. There was a rather serious one in February in some of the truck growing areas which reduced yields of several early vegetables and made necessary the replanting of some vegetables. On the whole, however, it seems probable that there will be liberal supplies of most of the early crops this year. This is particularly true of cabbage although the cold weather in Texas and Florida may have damaged the cabbage crop somewhat. There is a big acreage of this crop in the early and second early States and shipments during the past few weeks have been heavy.

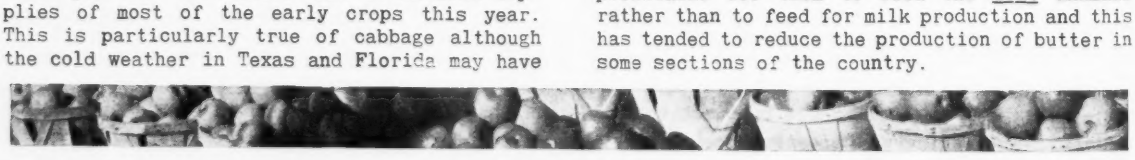
CHANGES IN AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES IN THE UNITED STATES

Kind of food	Jan. 28, 1936	Feb. 11, 1936	Change in two weeks
Dairy products:	¢	¢	%
Milk, qt	*11.8	*11.8	——
Cheese, lb	27.6	27.6	——
Butter, lb	40.9	41.8	+2.2
Beef:			
Round steak, lb	34.2	33.4	-2.3
Rib roast, lb	30.2	29.9	-1.0
Chuck roast, lb	23.4	23.0	-1.7
Pork:			
Chops, lb	31.8	32.0	+0.6
Lard, lb	17.1	16.8	-1.8
Whole smoked ham, lb	32.4	31.5	-2.8
Lamb:			
Leg of lamb, lb	29.1	28.4	-2.4
Breast lamb, lb	13.2	13.2	——
Square chuck, lb	22.9	22.2	-3.1
Poultry and eggs:			
Hens, lb	32.2	32.5	+0.9
Eggs, doz	36.2	36.8	+1.7
Bread:			
White, lb	8.4	8.4	——
Rye, lb	9.1	9.1	——
Whole wheat, lb	9.4	9.4	——

*3.5-5.0 percent butterfat (continued)

Your Food

MOST important increase during the first half of February was in the price of butter and eggs. Butter prices have been rising for some time. This is in spite of the fact that feed prices are much lower than they have been for the last year or two. Even with the lower feed prices farmers are finding that it is more profitable for them to feed the meat animals rather than to feed for milk production and this has tended to reduce the production of butter in some sections of the country.



CHANGES IN AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES IN THE UNITED STATES

Kind of food	Jan. 28, 1936	Feb. 11, 1936	Change in two weeks
Cereal products:	¢	¢	%
Flour, 1b	4.8	4.8	——
Macaroni, 1b	15.2	15.0	-1.3
Wheat cereal (28-oz. package)	23.9	24.1	+0.8
Vegetables—canned:			
Corn, #2 can	11.4	11.4	——
Peas, #2 can	16.1	16.0	-0.6
Tomatoes, #2 can	9.3	9.3	——
Vegetables—fresh:			
Potatoes, 1b	2.3	2.3	——
Onions, 1b	4.3	4.3	——
Cabbage, 1b	4.0	4.0	——
Vegetables—fresh:			
Lettuce, head	7.6	7.6	——
Spinach, 1b	7.8	8.2	+5.1
Carrots, bunch	6.1	6.1	——
Fruit—canned:			
Peaches, #2½ can	18.5	18.2	-1.6
Pears, #2½ can	22.5	22.5	——
Pineapple, #2½ can	22.5	22.4	-0.4
Fruit—fresh:			
Apples, 1b	5.4	5.3	-1.9
Bananas, 1b	6.6	6.2	-6.1
Oranges, doz	28.4	30.0	+5.6

Bill

Complete on this page

PRICES of all other major groups of food fell off in the first half of February. These include cereals and bakery products, meats, fruits and vegetables, beverages and chocolate, fats and oils, and sugars and sweets.

SLIGHT decreases occurred in prices of most cereals and bakery products although there was a small increase in the average price of wheat cereal. Most meat prices also went down. Further drops were reported in prices of all cuts of beef and in prices of most hog products although reports indicate an increase in the prices of loin roast and pork chops. Most cuts of lamb also sold at lower prices.

PRICES at the farm in February were about the same as in January but according to a report of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics a downward trend is in prospect until the middle of 1936. Prices of hogs, dairy products, and potatoes in February were higher than in January, partly as a result of the continued and widespread cold weather. On the other hand prices of wheat, cotton, and some other products declined from January to February.

RETURN of warm weather will probably bring with it lower prices of dairy products and eggs. The seasonal decline in hog prices which usually occurs in the spring is likely to begin earlier and perhaps will be greater than usual this year. In the next few months prices of farm crops will be affected by the planting and growing conditions. Wheat prices especially will be influenced considerably by weather conditions during the next few months. Since the carryover of wheat and other grains has been reduced, weather conditions will play a more important part in the price outlook than they have during the past few years.

FARM INCOME in 1935 including rental and benefit payments was 9 percent greater than in 1934. It is expected that the income from farm marketings in the first half of 1936 will continue above the level of a year earlier.

RETAIL PRICES of foods have been readjusted quickly and fairly completely to the removal of the processing taxes, although bread prices perhaps should be reduced somewhat more than they were up to February 11. Lowering of the prices of hog products also was doubtless a large factor in bringing about lower prices of beef and lamb.

ANY further substantial reduction in retail food prices will probably be the result of lower prices at the farm. As indicated above the present outlook is for somewhat lower prices of a number of products at the farm from now until the middle of the summer. Prospects during the latter half of this year will of course depend largely on the outturn of this year's crops and it is too early to forecast definitely what the supplies of foods will be. If weather conditions should be about normal, it is likely that the average level of food prices in 1936 will be lower than in 1935.

Dairy Products

BUTTER went up almost 1 cent a pound from January 28 to February 11. Prices of milk and cheese were unchanged in these 2 weeks.

ONE of the most important factors in the recent rise in the butter market in January and February was the severe winter weather. Heavy snowstorms and cold weather tended to curtail production in the market receipts of butter.

ANOTHER factor which for several months has tended to keep butter prices up has been high prices of meat animals which have made it more profitable for farmers to feed livestock for meat purposes rather than to feed dairy cows for milk production. The present outlook, however, is for at least the usual seasonal increase in production during the remainder of the winter and early spring. Some seasonal decline in butter prices is likely until the middle of the summer.

STORAGE stocks of butter on February 1 were higher than on that date a year ago but considerably under the 5-year average. Stocks of American cheese are relatively large, being above the stocks of last year and substantially above the 5-year average.

ALTHOUGH some seasonal decrease in butter prices can be expected during the spring and early summer, no important drop is in prospect. The continued cold weather throughout February caused wholesale prices to advance throughout practically the entire month. From January 18 to February 22, the rise in wholesale prices amounted to about 5 cents a pound. Wholesale prices for the week ending with February 22 were about 3 cents higher than they were during the week ending February 23, 1935.

Average Retail Prices, February 11, 1936 (cents)

Markets	Milk (qt.)	Butter-fat content of milk	Cheese (lb.)	Butter (lb.)
United States	11.8	3.5-5.1	27.6	41.8
New England:				
Boston	11.7	3.7-4.0	26.2	41.6
Bridgeport	13.0	3.9	28.9	42.6
Fall River	13.0	3.8	26.8	39.9
Manchester	12.0	3.8-4.0	27.8	41.7
New Haven	13.0	3.7-4.0	28.0	42.1
Portland, Maine	12.0	4.0-4.3	27.7	41.1
Providence	13.0	3.7-3.8	26.4	40.7
Middle Atlantic:				
Binghamton	12.0	3.6-3.8	27.3	40.6
Buffalo	12.0	3.6-3.7	27.1	40.1
Newark	13.0	3.5	27.4	43.2
New York	13.0	3.5-3.7	29.3	43.4
Philadelphia	11.0	3.5-3.8	29.6	42.7
Pittsburgh	11.0	3.6-4.3	28.6	42.1
Rochester	12.0	3.8	28.4	39.9
Scranton	11.0	3.8	27.7	40.4
East North-Central:				
Chicago	11.0	3.5-3.8	29.0	42.1
Cincinnati	12.0	3.5-3.8	26.6	41.9
Cleveland	11.0	3.5	28.3	41.7
Columbus	10.0	4.0	26.4	41.0
Detroit	12.0	3.7-3.7	27.1	42.0
Indianapolis	11.0	3.8-3.9	26.3	40.8
Milwaukee	10.0	3.6-3.7	27.8	40.2
Peoria	11.0	3.8-4.0	27.1	41.4
Springfield, Ill.	11.1	4.0	26.7	41.1
West North-Central:				
Cedar Rapids	10.0	4.0	25.3	39.5
Kansas City	11.1	3.8-4.0	27.4	40.3
Minneapolis	10.0	3.5	27.2	40.3
Omaha	10.0	3.8	25.9	39.8
St. Louis	12.1	3.7-3.8	26.6	42.1
St. Paul	10.0	3.6-3.7	26.6	40.7
Sioux Falls	10.0	4.0-4.1	30.1	39.2
Wichita	10.0	———	23.8	38.1
South Atlantic:				
Atlanta	14.0	4.2-4.4	23.2	41.2
Baltimore	12.0	4.0-4.2	26.1	43.4
Charleston, S. C.	15.0	4.0-4.3	24.7	40.6
Jacksonville	15.0	4.0-5.0	24.1	41.5
Norfolk	14.0	3.8-3.9	23.5	40.9
Richmond	12.0	3.5	25.1	40.6
Savannah	14.0	4.0-4.5	24.2	40.9
Washington, D. C.	13.0	4.1	26.1	43.3
Winston-Salem	14.3	4.3	25.8	41.7
East South-Central:				
Birmingham	13.5	4.3-4.5	22.3	43.2
Jackson, Miss	13.0	———	25.3	42.0
Knoxville	12.0	4.0-4.2	29.8	41.1
Louisville	12.0	4.0	25.1	41.1
Memphis	10.5	3.5-4.2	24.9	39.3
Mobile	14.0	4.0-5.2	25.2	39.7
West South-Central:				
Dallas	11.0	4.4	28.1	38.0
El Paso	11.0	———	25.3	40.2
Houston	12.0	4.2-4.5	23.0	41.0
Little Rock	12.0	3.8-4.5	24.1	39.0
New Orleans	12.0	4.0-4.5	25.7	41.4
Oklahoma City	11.0	4.0	27.3	41.6
Mountain:				
Butte	10.0	3.5-3.7	26.1	38.2
Denver	10.5	3.7-3.8	27.6	41.2
Salt Lake City	11.0	3.8	24.9	40.1
Tucson	12.3	———	23.8	40.3
Pacific:				
Los Angeles	11.0	4.0	26.8	39.9
Portland, Oreg.	11.5	4.0	26.2	39.3
San Francisco	13.0	4.0-4.2	29 9	41.5
Seattle	10.0	4.0	25.4	41.4

Average Retail Prices, February 11, 1936 (cents)

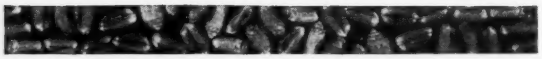
Markets	White (1lb.)	Rye (1lb.)	Whole-wheat (1lb.)
United States	8.4	9.1	9.4
New England:			
Boston	8.3	9.2	8.8
Bridgeport	8.6	9.1	9.1
Fall River	7.8	8.4	9.0
Manchester	8.5	9.0	8.6
New Haven	8.6	9.0	9.1
Portland, Maine	8.5	9.5	9.4
Providence	8.2	8.7	9.4
Middle Atlantic:			
Binghamton	—	—	—
Buffalo	8.0	8.6	9.2
Newark	9.1	9.5	9.7
New York	8.7	9.1	9.6
Philadelphia	8.9	9.9	10.7
Pittsburgh	8.8	10.6	10.6
Rochester	8.0	8.0	8.9
Scranton	9.6	9.6	9.4
East North-Central:			
Chicago	7.1	8.1	9.0
Cincinnati	7.8	9.4	9.5
Cleveland	7.6	8.3	8.8
Columbus	8.2	9.1	9.3
Detroit	7.4	7.9	8.2
Indianapolis	7.4	7.8	9.2
Milwaukee	7.7	7.6	9.8
Peoria	7.9	9.1	9.3
Springfield, Ill	8.9	9.3	9.0
West North-Central:			
Cedar Rapids	8.6	9.3	8.8
Kansas City	8.9	9.3	9.4
Minneapolis	8.3	8.8	9.3
Omaha	8.6	9.3	8.9
St. Louis	8.8	9.2	9.6
St. Paul	8.4	9.0	9.3
Sioux Falls	7.7	7.8	7.8
Wichita	7.6	8.0	9.3
South Atlantic:			
Atlanta	9.0	9.4	8.9
Baltimore	9.1	9.7	9.6
Charleston, S. C	9.3	9.8	10.0
Jacksonville	9.8	10.1	10.0
Norfolk	8.8	9.4	9.2
Richmond	8.7	8.9	9.5
Savannah	9.6	10.0	10.5
Washington, D. C	8.5	9.2	9.3
Winston-Salem	10.9	11.7	11.1
East South-Central:			
Birmingham	9.8	10.0	10.0
Jackson, Miss	10.3	10.1	10.1
Knoxville	9.0	10.1	10.7
Louisville	7.4	8.0	8.4
Memphis	8.7	9.5	9.6
Mobile	9.2	10.0	10.0
West South-Central:			
Dallas	8.8	9.0	8.6
El Paso	8.1	10.0	9.7
Houston	7.5	8.4	8.6
Little Rock	9.8	9.9	9.8
New Orleans	8.2	8.7	9.7
Oklahoma City	8.7	9.8	9.6
Mountain:			
Butte	9.7	9.7	9.8
Denver	7.9	9.7	8.3
Salt Lake City	7.0	9.4	6.8
Tucson	9.8	11.2	10.0
Pacific:			
Los Angeles	7.5	9.3	8.0
Portland, Oreg	9.1	9.9	9.2
San Francisco	9.3	9.0	8.9
Seattle	9.1	9.9	9.0

Bread

WHITE BREAD price average for the country continued its decrease which started after the removal of the wheat processing tax on January 6. Between January 28 and February 11 the decrease was 0.8 percent.

FOURTEEN cities reported decreases in the average price of this type of bread while 7 cities reported increases. In most cases these changes were small, the exceptions being an increase of 1.1 cents a pound in Jackson, Miss., and a drop of 0.6 cent in Portland, Maine. It is difficult to find any reason for the increase of 1.1 cents a pound in Jackson, Miss. The average price in that city on February 11 was reported as 10.3 cents. There is only one other city among the 59 reporting to the Bureau of Labor Statistics which reports a price as high as 10 cents. That is Winston-Salem where the average is reported as 10.9 cents a pound. The average price for the country as a whole is calculated as 8.4 cents a pound. Fifteen cities report prices of less than 8 cents a pound; 26 cities report prices from 8 to 8.9 cents a pound; 16 cities from 9 to 9.9 cents a pound; and two cities, Winston-Salem and Jackson, Miss., report prices of over 10 cents a pound.

THERE MAY be some further drop in bread prices during the next few months. The drop during January and February amounted to 0.2 cent a pound. The drop in the cost of wholesale bread ingredients during this period amounted to somewhat more than 0.3 cent a pound. It is true, of course, that changes in bread prices do not always occur immediately after the drop in wholesale prices of bread ingredients. This is because many bakeries have on hand a supply of flour which is bought at higher prices and try to keep up the price of bread until they buy a new supply at lower prices.



Cereal Products

PRICES of macaroni fell off 0.2 cent a pound from January 28 to February 11. An increase of 0.2 cent a 28-ounce package was reported in the price of wheat cereal.

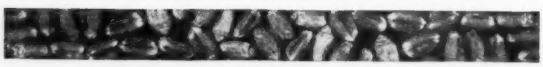
IT IS difficult to understand why the price of wheat cereal should advance at this time. There was practically no change in the wholesale price of wheat during January and February and the removal of the processing tax of 30 cents a bushel in January should tend to lower the price of wheat cereal.

RETAIL PRICES of flour generally dropped immediately after the removal of the processing tax on wheat and no substantial changes in retail prices of flour are anticipated unless of course the price of wheat should change significantly.

WHEAT PRICES this year will depend more on weather conditions than they have during the past several seasons. This is because of the fact that the carryover supplies of wheat in this country and in other countries will be much smaller than in recent years. For several years there has been a burdensome surplus of wheat throughout the world and this heavy surplus has tended to maintain low prices which were not influenced very much by weather conditions either in this country or in Europe.

IF winter killing of wheat is not unusually heavy in the United States and if the spring wheat crop is about average there is likely to be a surplus of wheat in this country. This would probably mean a downward movement in prices, which would encourage exports from this country to Europe. This, of course, is on the assumption of average weather conditions. Abnormal weather conditions either in this country or any other wheat producing countries might greatly change the outlook for the wheat market during the next few months.

PRESENT indications are that the severe cold weather in January didn't greatly damage the crop in the Wheat Belt since that area was well protected by snow.



Average Retail Prices, February 11, 1936 (cents)

Markets	Flour (lb.)	Macaroni (lb.)	Wheat cereal (28-oz. pkg.)
United States	4.8	15.0	24.1
New England:			
Boston	4.7	14.5	23.7
Bridgeport	5.6	16.7	25.3
Fall River	5.1	15.3	21.4
Manchester	5.0	16.6	25.8
New Haven	5.3	15.8	24.2
Portland, Maine	4.7	17.7	23.7
Providence	5.0	14.3	22.3
Middle Atlantic:			
Binghamton	5.1	14.6	25.5
Buffalo	5.0	16.7	24.4
Newark	5.0	15.3	23.5
New York	5.3	16.5	23.5
Philadelphia	5.0	15.3	25.0
Pittsburgh	4.4	15.8	23.5
Rochester	5.2	14.9	23.1
Scranton	4.9	15.5	25.4
East North-Central:			
Chicago	4.9	13.0	25.8
Cincinnati	4.6	14.9	22.6
Cleveland	4.9	14.8	23.4
Columbus	4.2	16.7	22.6
Detroit	4.7	14.1	23.5
Indianapolis	4.3	14.7	25.8
Milwaukee	4.6	13.8	24.7
Peoria	5.0	12.2	26.6
Springfield, Ill.	5.4	12.0	26.9
West North-Central:			
Cedar Rapids	4.9	14.9	23.9
Kansas City	4.4	15.9	23.3
Minneapolis	4.9	14.0	21.9
Omaha	4.5	18.5	24.6
St. Louis	4.9	16.3	26.2
St. Paul	4.9	13.9	23.9
Sioux Falls	4.2	13.3	26.5
Wichita	4.2	13.4	24.6
South Atlantic:			
Atlanta	5.1	16.4	24.7
Baltimore	4.8	14.7	23.0
Charleston, S. C.	5.5	15.4	24.4
Jacksonville	5.6	14.8	26.0
Norfolk	4.9	15.7	24.9
Richmond	4.8	14.8	24.4
Savannah	5.2	16.1	25.0
Washington, D. C.	5.2	15.1	23.8
Winston-Salem	3.9	17.7	30.1
East South-Central:			
Birmingham	4.8	12.4	25.7
Jackson, Miss.	5.4	18.4	28.9
Knoxville	4.9	12.6	28.7
Louisville	4.4	12.8	25.5
Memphis	5.7	14.0	27.9
Mobile	4.7	16.9	25.5
West South-Central			
Dallas	4.9	15.8	26.3
El Paso	5.7	17.8	28.3
Houston	4.5	13.0	22.9
Little Rock	4.5	15.8	31.2
New Orleans	6.0	9.5	24.3
Oklahoma City	5.9	14.8	28.7
Mountain:			
Butte	4.4	16.3	25.6
Denver	3.8	16.5	23.6
Salt Lake City	3.6	17.9	25.6
Tucson	4.5	16.4	23.1
Pacific:			
Los Angeles	4.3	14.6	23.8
Portland, Oreg.	4.7	15.2	24.8
San Francisco	4.9	15.5	23.6
Seattle	4.6	17.3	25.9

Average Retail Prices, February 11, 1936 (cents)

Markets	Round steak (lb.)	Rib roast (lb.)	Chuck roast (lb.)
United States	33.4	29.9	23.0
New England:			
Boston	39.8	32.3	25.9
Bridgeport	39.2	33.9	27.3
Fall River	41.0	29.8	25.2
Manchester	40.5	29.6	22.5
New Haven	40.0	33.4	26.2
Portland, Maine	38.6	30.6	23.0
Providence	40.2	33.2	27.8
Middle Atlantic:			
Binghamton	31.5	26.8	23.0
Buffalo	30.4	26.7	22.6
Newark	35.7	30.9	22.0
New York	36.5	33.3	24.4
Philadelphia	36.4	34.2	24.5
Pittsburgh	31.1	26.4	21.1
Rochester	29.9	25.9	21.8
Scranton	34.5	32.0	26.3
East North-Central:			
Chicago	32.9	32.7	25.1
Cincinnati	35.3	30.3	23.6
Cleveland	28.5	27.4	23.2
Columbus	34.6	28.1	22.6
Detroit	33.1	29.4	23.9
Indianapolis	33.5	25.6	22.1
Milwaukee	31.5	27.3	23.2
Peoria	30.9	25.0	20.6
Springfield, Ill	31.5	23.4	19.4
West North-Central:			
Cedar Rapids	25.4	19.0	17.6
Kansas City	29.5	26.9	20.2
Minneapolis	30.9	28.3	23.1
Omaha	28.8	22.6	19.3
St. Louis	35.0	26.3	22.0
St. Paul	29.5	27.2	22.3
Sioux Falls	28.6	21.8	19.3
Wichita	30.1	21.2	17.3
South Atlantic:			
Atlanta	34.7	30.6	24.1
Baltimore	30.7	28.6	21.6
Charleston, S. C.	30.5	27.3	18.5
Jacksonville	31.0	27.6	21.0
Norfolk	31.6	29.5	21.3
Richmond	33.0	28.9	20.9
Savannah	28.5	25.9	19.5
Washington, D. C.	34.0	29.9	20.6
Winston-Salem	30.4	24.8	20.6
East South-Central:			
Birmingham	28.8	20.1	18.2
Jackson, Miss.	31.9	23.8	18.4
Knoxville	30.2	24.3	21.1
Louisville	32.2	26.2	21.0
Memphis	34.0	24.5	19.2
Mobile	29.2	21.5	14.9
West South-Central:			
Dallas	33.4	29.3	19.7
El Paso	29.7	25.0	19.1
Houston	31.6	26.2	18.3
Little Rock	30.6	26.0	19.2
New Orleans	30.5	27.4	19.3
Oklahoma City	32.1	21.4	17.0
Montain:			
Butte	25.7	21.5	17.3
Denver	30.1	23.9	19.7
Salt Lake City	28.4	23.9	19.9
Tucson	34.4	32.4	22.6
Pacific:			
Los Angeles	32.4	26.4	19.7
Portland, Oreg.	24.7	21.0	16.8
San Francisco	31.2	27.3	18.5
Seattle	29.0	25.4	19.1

Beef

BEEF PRICES continued to drop from January 28 to February 11. The average price of round steak fell 0.8 cent a pound, rib roast dropped 0.3 cent a pound, and chuck roast fell 0.4 cent a pound.

MOVEMENT of meat prices in January and February gave clear indication of the interdependence of the prices of the different kinds of meat. When the hog processing tax was removed and the price of hog products started downward, prices of beef and lamb fell with them. This does not indicate, of course, that prices of beef and lamb depend entirely on the pork situation but it is apparent that the sharp drop in the price of hog products had a tendency to lower prices of beef and lamb.

IN THE wholesale livestock markets, prices of beef steers dropped fairly steadily from about the middle of January until about the end of February. The average price of all grades of beef steers in Chicago during the week ending with January 11 was $9.53 a 100 pounds. By the week ending with February 22 the average price had dropped to $8.35 a 100 pounds, or a decrease of $1.18 in a period of 6 weeks. During the same period quotations for dressed beef fell about 1 cent a pound.

INCREASED supplies of better grades of slaughter cattle are expected during the next few months and for that reason prices of the better grades of beef may drop somewhat further. On the other hand market supplies of the lower grades of beef animals are expected to be below the supplies of last year. This may tend to reduce the differential in prices between the higher grades and lower grades of beef.

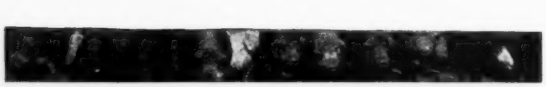
Pork Products

LARD and ham continued to decrease in price from January 28 to February 11, but there was an increase of 0.2 cent in the average price of a pound of pork chops.

MARKET PRICES of hogs started to rise immediately after the processing tax was discontinued but this increase in hog prices brought about an immediate increase in the marketings of hogs which kept those prices from rising as far as many economists expected. The increased offerings of hogs checked the rise in hog prices temporarily in the middle of January but there was a further increase in hog prices during February as marketings fell off again.

MOVEMENT of wholesale prices of hog products during January and February was somewhat irregular. Prices of fresh products such as loins fell sharply during the first half of January. From the middle of January to the middle of February there was a fairly substantial rise in the prices of these products. On the other hand, wholesale prices of hams dropped sharply throughout the month of January and some decreases were registered during the month of February. Prices of bacon and lard both dropped substantially during the first half of January and from that time until the end of February were practically unchanged.

PRICES of hog products usually go down somewhat during the spring months. This is the time of the year when the fall-farrowed pigs come to market. This year indications are that the spring decline in prices of hogs and of hog products will be somewhat earlier than usual and probably will be greater than average. It will, of course, be difficult to determine how much of the spring drop this year is of a seasonal nature and how much of it may be delayed reaction to the removal of the processing tax.



Average Retail Prices, February 11, 1936 (cents)

Markets	Chops (lb.)	Lard (lb.)	Whole smoked ham (lb.)
United States	32.0	16.8	31.5
New England:			
Boston	31.9	16.2	32.2
Bridgeport	32.7	16.5	31.0
Fall River	30.3	15.1	33.6
Manchester	30.8	15.9	34.7
New Haven	32.8	17.4	32.4
Portland, Maine	29.1	14.9	30.7
Providence	29.9	14.8	31.8
Middle Atlantic:			
Binghamton	33.1	15.0	31.5
Buffalo	31.9	15.1	30.5
Newark	33.4	16.7	31.7
New York	33.0	18.4	32.3
Philadelphia	33.7	16.6	31.0
Pittsburgh	32.3	16.3	30.8
Rochester	29.4	15.7	30.8
Scranton	32.6	17.4	29.8
East North-Central:			
Chicago	33.1	17.1	31.6
Cincinnati	32.9	17.4	30.1
Cleveland	30.7	18.5	31.7
Columbus	32.6	17.1	32.8
Detroit	36.3	16.0	32.7
Indianapolis	29.4	16.0	29.8
Milwaukee	32.3	15.8	29.7
Peoria	31.4	18.1	31.2
Springfield, Ill	30.1	15.9	32.2
West North-Central:			
Cedar Rapids	27.0	15.6	29.0
Kansas City	30.0	16.7	32.2
Minneapolis	32.7	15.6	31.4
Omaha	28.9	16.4	29.6
St. Louis	30.9	17.3	29.2
St. Paul	30.6	15.8	30.3
Sioux Falls	28.2	17.6	31.4
Wichita	28.9	15.4	29.8
South Atlantic:			
Atlanta	32.4	15.3	29.5
Baltimore	30.4	15.4	31.9
Charleston, S. C	29.2	20.4	33.3
Jacksonville	28.5	19.0	30.9
Norfolk	26.7	15.9	31.0
Richmond	28.8	15.2	32.4
Savannah	26.6	20.0	29.6
Washington, D. C	31.4	14.5	30.7
Winston-Salem	31.4	18.7	32.7
East South-Central:			
Birmingham	29.7	16.4	30.9
Jackson, Miss	28.4	18.4	32.4
Knoxville	28.9	19.5	31.9
Louisville	30.7	16.0	27.4
Memphis	29.9	15.9	30.8
Mobile	26.4	17.9	31.6
West South-Central:			
Dallas	29.4	21.3	33.1
El Paso	27.5	16.3	31.9
Houston	29.0	16.0	28.5
Little Rock	28.4	16.7	31.4
New Orleans	29.7	16.1	32.5
Oklahoma City	28.6	16.0	30.5
Mountain:			
Butte	30.5	20.0	30.3
Denver	29.4	18.0	32.4
Salt Lake City	31.2	20.1	33.4
Tucson	32.7	20.2	31.5
Pacific:			
Los Angeles	34.6	16.4	32.3
Portland, Oreg	30.1	18.8	33.1
San Francisco	35.4	20.0	34.4
Seattle	32.5	19.0	34.3

Average Retail Prices, February 11, 1936 (cents)

Markets	Leg of lamb (lb.)	Breast lamb (lb.)	Lamb square chuck (lb.)
United States	28.4	13.2	22.2
New England:			
Boston	26.6	15.0	19.2
Bridgeport	28.4	12.0	21.9
Fall River	27.2	8.6	20.4
Manchester	27.6	15.4	22.4
New Haven	28.3	12.1	22.8
Portland, Maine	27.7	15.6	21.3
Providence	26.5	10.9	20.5
Middle Atlantic:			
Binghamton	31.4	14.4	24.9
Buffalo	27.7	14.3	24.4
Newark	27.9	14.7	23.6
New York	28.2	13.0	20.5
Philadelphia	30.1	9.8	20.6
Pittsburgh	29.4	15.0	22.7
Rochester	27.7	15.1	23.3
Scranton	30.4	14.1	25.4
East North-Central:			
Chicago	29.9	13.0	25.6
Cincinnati	33.1	18.0	27.3
Cleveland	28.8	15.6	26.2
Columbus	31.3	19.7	27.0
Detroit	30.3	17.4	28.2
Indianapolis	31.4	15.0	24.2
Milwaukee	30.1	13.6	26.5
Peoria	30.1	14.5	24.8
Springfield, Ill	29.7	13.7	23.2
West North-Central:			
Cedar Rapids	28.0	12.7	22.8
Kansas City	27.1	16.7	22.6
Minneapolis	27.9	12.0	23.3
Omaha	26.6	10.1	19.5
St. Louis	29.2	18.2	23.2
St. Paul	26.6	11.7	23.0
Sioux Falls	30.1	10.9	23.0
Wichita	28.2	12.5	19.7
South Atlantic:			
Atlanta	26.8	15.0	18.6
Baltimore	28.2	16.2	23.5
Charleston, S. C.	29.0	15.7	21.4
Jacksonville	27.4	14.4	21.3
Norfolk	26.7	13.0	17.3
Richmond	29.5	15.8	24.2
Savannah	27.9	13.0	20.4
Washington, D. C.	28.2	12.3	21.4
Winston-Salem	33.3	15.4	23.6
East South-Central:			
Birmingham	34.3	14.5	14.8
Jackson, Miss.	26.4	15.3	17.8
Knoxville	29.2	15.0	23.0
Louisville	32.0	20.5	27.5
Memphis	27.8	16.5	19.5
Mobile	29.5	13.5	19.6
West South-Central:			
Dallas	26.2	11.3	16.5
El Paso	26.9	13.9	19.9
Houston	29.8	15.6	18.7
Little Rock	28.3	13.4	20.5
New Orleans	27.5	15.4	17.2
Oklahoma City	27.8	14.2	21.3
Mountain:			
Butte	28.1	12.8	23.0
Denver	24.4	12.5	20.4
Salt Lake City	28.6	13.0	22.7
Tucson	31.2	16.1	25.8
Pacific:			
Los Angeles	27.2	12.4	22.8
Portland, Oreg.	26.4	12.6	20.5
San Francisco	30.0	12.6	20.4
Seattle	27.8	13.7	22.4

Lamb

LAMB, along with other meats, dropped in price from January 28 to February 11. The average price of lamb legs fell off 0.7 cent a pound and square chuck 0.7 cent a pound. No change was reported in the average price of breast of lamb.

PROBABLY the most important cause of the lower lamb prices was the drop in prices of pork and beef during January and February. When consumers can buy pork and beef at lower prices they will either buy less lamb or insist on getting lamb at lower prices. There is always a great deal of competition between beef, pork, and lamb. Anything which affects the market price of one of these meats tends to affect the prices of the other two indirectly.

SLAUGHTER SUPPLIES of sheep or lamb during March and April probably will be somewhat smaller than they were a year earlier. This is indicated by the decrease in the number of sheep and lambs on feed. The prospective small supply of sheep and lambs in March indicates that prices are not likely to fall a great deal lower in the immediate future.

RECEIPTS of sheep and lambs in seven leading markets in January were about 25 percent larger than in December and slightly larger than in January 1935. During recent months the market receipts have included more than the usual proportion of sheep and less than the usual proportion of lambs. Inspected slaughter of sheep and lambs in January was 12.5 percent greater than in December and 14.5 percent greater than in January 1935. The January slaughter this year represents the second largest January slaughter on record.

Poultry and Eggs

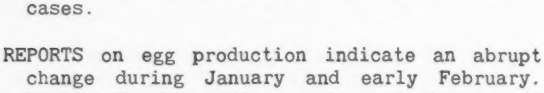
PRICES of both hens and eggs went up from January 28 to February 11, hens increasing 0.3 cent a pound and eggs 0.6 cent a dozen.

IT IS unusual for egg prices to increase in February. The reason for the increase this year was undoubtedly the cold stormy weather. Probably as soon as the cold spell is over the downward seasonal movement in egg prices will continue.

RISE in wholesale egg prices started about the middle of January and continued with a few interruptions throughout most of February. In New York City wholesale egg prices went up almost 11 cents a dozen in the 5 weeks from January 18 to February 22. Wholesale prices in January were below those of January 1935 and prices in February were higher than the 1935 prices.

STORAGE stocks of shell eggs on February 1 were 159,000 cases compared with 39,000 cases a year earlier and a 5-year average of 312,000 cases.

REPORTS on egg production indicate an abrupt change during January and early February. During the 10 months previous to January of this year the average number of eggs laid per hen have been on a high level generally in excess of the 5-year average and in many cases close to record highs. On February 1, however, production per hen was lower than the February 5-year average although it was somewhat higher than production per hen on February of last year. Last year's low production per hen was due to the feed shortage at that time. The February drop in production per hen occurred mainly in the Central and Eastern States where storms and cold weather were severe. On the other hand, heavy production was reported in the Far West, where weather conditions were favorable.



Average Retail Prices, February 11, 1936 (cents)

Markets	Hens (lb.)	Eggs (doz.)
United States	32.5	36.8
New England:		
Boston	32.6	42.3
Bridgeport	33.8	43.7
Fall River	29.7	38.8
Manchester	34.8	37.6
New Haven	33.3	42.5
Portland, Maine	32.6	37.9
Providence	32.1	39.5
Middle Atlantic:		
Binghamton	32.9	37.6
Buffalo	32.9	36.0
Newark	33.4	40.7
New York	33.4	41.2
Philadelphia	33.3	39.0
Pittsburgh	31.6	37.7
Rochester	32.1	36.6
Scranton	34.3	36.6
East North-Central:		
Chicago	33.8	37.0
Cincinnati	36.1	35.1
Cleveland	35.7	35.9
Columbus	30.5	36.6
Detroit	34.6	36.5
Indianapolis	30.0	32.7
Milwaukee	31.4	33.5
Peoria	31.9	35.8
Springfield, Ill	29.5	34.8
West North-Central:		
Cedar Rapids	26.9	31.5
Kansas City	28.8	34.0
Minneapolis	32.5	32.9
Omaha	28.4	33.8
St. Louis	28.7	34.5
St. Paul	31.1	32.0
Sioux Falls	27.9	28.7
Wichita	28.1	27.2
South Atlantic:		
Atlanta	27.5	35.8
Baltimore	34.2	37.0
Charleston, S. C	28.1	30.0
Jacksonville	29.6	33.5
Norfolk	30.5	34.4
Richmond	31.7	33.5
Savannah	25.6	28.7
Washington, D. C	35.4	39.6
Winston-Salem	30.4	37.7
East South-Central:		
Birmingham	24.8	31.6
Jackson, Miss	23.8	32.7
Knoxville	26.0	36.7
Louisville	30.4	35.3
Memphis	25.4	29.8
Mobile	24.1	26.8
West South-Central:		
Dallas	27.5	27.7
El Paso	29.0	35.0
Houston	30.6	29.0
Little Rock	25.2	31.3
New Orleans	28.8	30.2
Oklahoma City	23.9	29.6
Mountain:		
Butte	27.9	33.6
Denver	29.8	34.0
Salt Lake City	31.1	30.8
Tucson	32.9	34.1
Pacific:		
Los Angeles	35.9	24.2
Portland, Oreg	27.5	24.5
San Francisco	34.9	26.8
Seattle	30.2	29.2

Average Retail Prices, February 11, 1936 (cents)

Markets	Potatoes (lb.)	Onions (lb.)	Cabbage (lb.)
United States	2.3	4.3	4.0
New England:			
Boston	2.4	4.2	4.6
Bridgeport	2.2	4.5	4.5
Fall River	2.1	4.4	3.5
Manchester	2.2	4.8	3.6
New Haven	2.3	4.7	4.1
Portland, Maine	2.0	4.8	3.1
Providence	2.1	4.0	3.4
Middle Atlantic:			
Binghamton	1.7	3.8	4.4
Buffalo	1.8	4.2	2.8
Newark	2.6	4.7	3.5
New York	2.8	4.8	4.8
Philadelphia	2.5	4.5	3.1
Pittsburgh	2.2	4.5	3.7
Rochester	1.6	4.0	2.6
Scranton	2.2	4.0	4.1
East North-Central:			
Chicago	2.3	4.3	4.6
Cincinnati	2.3	5.1	3.5
Cleveland	2.2	4.2	3.3
Columbus	1.7	4.7	2.8
Detroit	1.9	3.6	3.9
Indianapolis	2.1	4.2	3.2
Milwaukee	2.0	4.0	3.9
Peoria	2.1	4.7	4.5
Springfield, Ill	2.0	4.6	4.4
West North-Central:			
Cedar Rapids	2.0	4.4	4.5
Kansas City	2.2	5.5	3.7
Minneapolis	2.1	4.1	4.9
Omaha	1.9	4.7	4.1
St. Louis	2.3	4.3	3.9
St. Paul	1.9	4.4	4.4
Sioux Falls	1.9	5.0	4.4
Wichita	1.8	4.6	3.8
South Atlantic:			
Atlanta	2.6	4.5	3.4
Baltimore	2.4	4.5	5.0
Charleston, S. C.	2.5	5.2	3.4
Jacksonville	2.2	4.1	2.6
Norfolk	2.7	4.8	4.6
Richmond	2.7	4.6	4.3
Savannah	2.3	4.5	3.4
Washington, D. C.	2.5	4.7	4.0
Winston-Salem	2.7	5.3	4.1
East South-Central:			
Birmingham	2.3	4.3	2.8
Jackson, Miss.	3.0	5.0	3.9
Knoxville	2.5	5.2	3.7
Louisville	2.4	4.1	3.8
Memphis	2.3	4.4	2.4
Mobile	2.3	4.0	3.4
West South-Central:			
Dallas	3.5	5.3	3.7
El Paso	2.6	4.1	3.2
Houston	3.1	4.2	2.1
Little Rock	2.3	4.2	3.3
New Orleans	2.5	4.1	3.5
Oklahoma City	2.5	4.9	3.1
Mountain:			
Butte	2.0	3.7	6.2
Denver	1.9	3.9	3.9
Salt Lake City	1.8	3.1	4.1
Tucson	2.5	4.6	3.0
Pacific:			
Los Angeles	2.8	4.0	2.8
Portland, Oreg.	2.3	3.2	5.1
San Francisco	2.7	3.9	6.6
Seattle	2.8	3.4	5.4

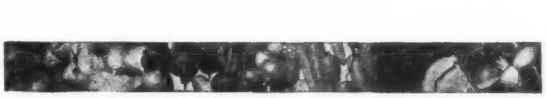
Vegetables (fresh)

CHANGES in average prices of potatoes, onions, and cabbage from January 28 to February 11 were all slightly upward. Potatoes increased most, 2.5 percent, cabbage 0.7 percent, and onions 0.6 percent.

IN January and February there were numerous temporary variations in the wholesale prices of potatoes. These variations were due mainly to weather conditions. Prices went up in the middle of February during the extremely cold stormy weather when it was difficult to ship potatoes from the commercial producing areas. However, prices came down again during the last part of February and little change is expected in the potato market during the next few months. Unfavorable weather may reduce the crop considerably in Florida, North Carolina, and South Carolina, and this may tend to strengthen prices of the old crop somewhat. Supply of new potatoes in April and May is likely to be less than last year.

STOCKS of old cabbage are about average and plentiful supplies of new cabbage are in prospect for several months at least. There is a big acreage of cabbage in Texas which is now being harvested. The crop does not appear to have been hurt very much by the freeze in February and shipments are very much heavier than they were last year. Large cabbage crops are expected also in the other early and second early States.

JANUARY 1 stocks of onions were somewhat greater than on January 1, 1934 and on January 1, 1935.



Vegetables (fresh)

WEATHER conditions in the first half of February were very unfavorable in the truck-growing sections in the southeast. Rainfall was very heavy and caused a good deal of damage in nearly all sections of Florida. Heavy rains have also delayed the planting of spring crops and made necessary the replanting of crops which had already been sown for spring harvest. Temperatures have been generally below normal and freezing temperatures occurred as far south as the Everglades on the morning of February 12.

IN north Florida the potato crop was seriously damaged by heavy rains and freezing temperature. In central Florida cucumbers, beans, and many other crops had to be replanted and there was considerable loss of pepper plants and a decrease in the prospective yield in cabbage, celery, and strawberries.

IN southern Florida many crops had to be replanted and these will come to market later than usual.

IN Texas growing conditions in the next half of February were unfavorable for winter crops and for spring plantings. The spinach crop was damaged considerably and yields of this crop have been lowered.

WEATHER conditions in California were much more favorable to the vegetable industry. Lettuce supplies from Imperial Valley section continue to be plentiful and the quality of the crop continues good. The spring crop of lettuce appears to be progressing well and there should be plentiful supplies throughout the remainder of the winter and spring months.

Average Retail Prices, February 11, 1936 (cents)

Markets	Lettuce (head)	Spinach (lb.)	Carrots (bunch)
United States	7.6	8.2	6.1
New England:			
Boston	8.9	8.2	6.7
Bridgeport	8.8	8.6	7.7
Fall River	7.8	8.5	6.3
Manchester	9.4	8.2	6.9
New Haven	8.4	8.5	7.0
Portland, Maine	9.7	7.4	6.8
Providence	8.8	9.2	7.4
Middle Atlantic:			
Binghamton	8.2	8.0	6.9
Buffalo	7.8	7.2	6.1
Newark	9.4	10.1	7.0
New York	9.9	9.4	7.2
Philadelphia	8.5	8.6	7.3
Pittsburgh	8.4	8.2	5.4
Rochester	8.3	8.3	5.4
Scranton	8.3	8.6	6.2
East North-Central:			
Chicago	7.9	10.0	6.3
Cincinnati	7.6	8.3	5.6
Cleveland	7.9	8.3	6.4
Columbus	10.1	9.8	5.2
Detroit	7.1	8.4	6.3
Indianapolis	8.6	8.0	5.6
Milwaukee	7.3	8.7	6.0
Peoria	6.8	8.6	6.7
Springfield, Ill.	7.9	9.8	7.0
West North-Central:			
Cedar Rapids	7.0	10.3	5.9
Kansas City	7.4	8.7	5.9
Minneapolis	8.4	9.5	6.3
Omaha	8.0	9.4	6.2
St. Louis	7.9	7.7	5.9
St. Paul	9.0	9.3	6.7
Sioux Falls	7.7	10.0	6.7
Wichita	7.2	8.9	5.2
South Atlantic:			
Atlanta	8.0	8.4	7.6
Baltimore	9.4	10.0	7.8
Charleston, S. C.	9.6	10.7	9.2
Jacksonville	7.9	9.5	6.5
Norfolk	9.1	9.2	6.4
Richmond	8.2	9.5	7.8
Savannah	8.3	9.0	8.4
Washington, D. C.	8.3	8.8	7.2
Winston-Salem	9.6	12.6	9.0
East South-Central:			
Birmingham	9.2	7.7	7.1
Jackson, Miss.	5.2	9.6	5.3
Knoxville	6.1	12.1	7.7
Louisville	7.1	8.8	6.1
Memphis	5.8	6.1	5.3
Mobile	8.1	7.3	5.5
West South-Central:			
Dallas	6.2	8.7	5.0
El Paso	4.7	5.4	3.3
Houston	5.3	6.6	4.9
Little Rock	5.5	8.4	5.6
New Orleans	6.7	7.7	4.4
Oklahoma City	6.0	7.9	5.0
Mountain:			
Butte	9.7	12.0	8.1
Denver	7.7	6.9	5.3
Salt Lake City	8.7	7.8	4.4
Tucson	3.3	5.1	2.2
Pacific:			
Los Angeles	4.7	3.1	3.1
Portland, Oreg.	6.3	10.1	5.1
San Francisco	4.6	5.1	5.6
Seattle	7.1	10.0	5.0

(cents) Carrots (bunch)
6.1
6.7
7.7
6.3
6.9
7.0
6.8
7.4
6.9
6.1
7.0
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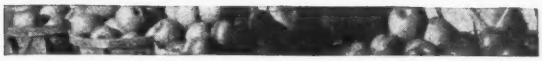
4.4
5.0
8.1
5.3
4.4
2.2
3.1
5.1
5.6
5.0

Average Retail Prices, February 11, 1936 (cents)

Markets	Apples (lb.)	Bananas (doz. lb.*)	Oranges (doz.)
United States	5.3	*6.2	30.0
New England:			
Boston	5.5	*5.8	32.3
Bridgeport	5.5	*6.1	32.4
Fall River	5.4	*6.4	34.2
Manchester	4.5	*6.5	32.8
New Haven	4.9	21.7	32.2
Portland, Maine	4.4	*7.3	30.0
Providence	5.3	*6.0	34.5
Middle Atlantic:			
Binghamton	5.1	21.7	37.3
Buffalo	4.0	23.5	29.8
Newark	6.0	21.0	33.2
New York	6.3	22.4	35.7
Philadelphia	4.8	18.9	30.7
Pittsburgh	4.7	25.6	29.1
Rochester	4.1	22.1	30.2
Scranton	4.1	20.0	34.1
East North-Central:			
Chicago	5.6	*7.1	33.3
Cincinnati	5.5	*5.7	30.7
Cleveland	4.9	*5.9	32.1
Columbus	4.7	*5.8	35.2
Detroit	5.5	*5.8	34.1
Indianapolis	5.4	*6.7	30.2
Milwaukee	5.7	*6.2	29.7
Peoria	6.3	*6.9	33.2
Springfield, Ill	4.6	*6.2	34.2
West North-Central:			
Cedar Rapids	4.9	*7.5	31.8
Kansas City	5.5	*6.7	33.2
Minneapolis	6.4	*7.5	32.4
Omaha	6.0	*8.3	29.9
St. Louis	5.7	*5.9	30.4
St. Paul	6.3	*8.0	33.7
Sioux Falls	5.1	*8.0	29.4
Wichita	6.4	*8.2	32.7
South Atlantic:			
Atlanta	5.8	20.0	25.0
Baltimore	5.3	19.6	31.4
Charleston, S. C	6.2	20.0	23.2
Jacksonville	5.4	16.1	19.9
Norfolk	5.4	23.1	35.8
Richmond	5.9	23.8	31.5
Savannah	4.9	21.4	22.6
Washington, D. C	5.0	21.7	32.0
Winston-Salem	5.0	*6.4	26.7
East South-Central:			
Birmingham	4.4	*5.8	26.4
Jackson, Miss	6.8	*4.9	29.6
Knoxville	4.4	*5.6	26.2
Louisville	5.5	*6.4	27.7
Memphis	5.1	*5.1	30.1
Mobile	5.8	16.5	28.5
West South-Central:			
Dallas	6.3	*6.3	36.3
El Paso	6.0	*5.8	22.2
Houston	—	16.8	28.9
Little Rock	5.8	*5.2	29.5
New Orleans	—	*4.1	29.0
Oklahoma City	4.7	*7.1	—
Mountain:			
Butte	5.9	*9.4	31.7
Denver	5.5	*8.3	27.7
Salt Lake City	5.5	*7.8	24.2
Tucson	6.0	*7.1	21.3
Pacific:			
Los Angeles	6.0	*6.8	13.8
Portland, Oreg	4.5	*7.7	30.5
San Francisco	4.6	23.5	24.6
Seattle	4.1	*7.1	27.1



Fruit

APPLE PRICES dropped 0.1 cent a pound from January 28 to February 11, while banana prices fell off 0.4 cent a pound, and orange prices went up 1.6 cents a dozen.

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS of apples on February 1 amounted to about 24 million bushels compared with 21 million bushels last year and a 5-year average of about 21 million bushels. The holdings of box apples this year are about the same as last but there is a much larger supply of eastern apples in baskets and barrels. This is due to the increased crop of apples in the East last fall. Western shipments of apples this year have been considerably below last year but the marketings of apples in the East by rail and by motor truck are much heavier than last year. No marked changes in apple prices are likely during the remainder of the old crop year.

FEBRUARY'S crop report indicates a substantial drop in the prospective supply of California Valencia oranges. This variety starts to market about the first of May. The prospective supply of all other kinds of citrus fruit is about the same as had been anticipated earlier. The total production of oranges during the current crop year is estimated at about 52 million boxes as compared with 65 million boxes last year and a 5-year average of 49 million boxes. In the citrus producing areas in California the month of January was very dry and this probably had a tendency to prevent the development of oranges to the usual average size. The Florida citrus crop does not appear to have been damaged greatly by the recent cold weather.

Average Retail Prices, February 11, 1936 (cents)

Markets	Corn #2 can	Peas #2 can	Tomatoes #2 can (#2½*)	Peaches #2½ can	Pears #2½ can	Pineapple #2½ can
United States	11.4	16.0	9.3	18.2	22.5	22.4
New England:						
Boston	12.8	16.3	11.5	18.5	23.1	22.0
Bridgeport	13.7	19.5	11.3	19.8	25.0	22.8
Fall River	10.8	17.4	9.2	18.2	21.9	22.4
Manchester	12.1	16.8	9.8	20.5	23.7	23.9
New Haven	13.4	16.9	10.8	20.0	24.4	23.2
Portland, Maine	12.5	16.3	10.2	20.9	24.6	23.6
Providence	10.8	18.0	9.2	18.3	20.0	22.3
Middle Atlantic:						
Binghamton	12.5	18.0	8.8	18.0	23.8	21.4
Buffalo	12.3	15.8	9.9	19.5	23.7	23.0
Newark	10.7	17.0	9.0	17.0	19.9	20.7
New York	11.8	15.7	9.2	17.0	20.6	21.1
Philadelphia	11.0	14.3	9.0	16.7	19.8	20.9
Pittsburgh	10.7	15.8	9.7	18.1	22.5	22.5
Rochester	12.7	16.6	10.4	19.9	23.5	22.8
Scranton	12.4	16.6	9.6	18.3	20.9	22.5
East North-Central:						
Chicago	11.2	15.1	10.1	21.1	24.7	24.5
Cincinnati	12.2	15.7	11.2	18.2	24.0	23.3
Cleveland	12.4	16.7	9.9	20.5	23.4	24.0
Columbus	11.4	17.1	10.0	19.8	25.8	24.8
Detroit	10.7	18.1	8.9	18.0	23.0	23.5
Indianapolis	10.3	15.7	8.9	18.8	26.0	23.3
Milwaukee	11.8	16.5	11.1	21.1	20.2	24.5
Peoria	13.0	16.7	10.9	22.4	25.4	24.5
Springfield, Ill	12.2	18.6	10.7	22.1	26.4	24.5
West North-Central:						
Cedar Rapids	10.7	17.2	10.6	22.5	24.0	24.0
Kansas City	9.7	14.4	8.5	18.1	23.2	22.4
Minneapolis	10.7	15.7	10.4	20.6	24.2	24.7
Omaha	11.1	15.2	10.0	19.5	23.4	23.7
St. Louis	11.0	17.1	9.2	18.7	23.9	23.1
St. Paul	11.8	15.4	10.1	21.4	22.3	23.9
Sioux Falls	12.2	17.5	11.6	22.2	24.5	25.1
Wichita	10.:	17.6	9.0	18.3	21.9	21.7
South Atlantic:						
Atlanta	11.1	16.8	8.9	19.9	23.7	24.4
Baltimore	12.7	15.6	8.5	16.5	20.8	20.2
Charleston, S. C	10.2	16.9	8.4	17.6	21.7	22.3
Jacksonville	11.5	16.3	8.0	18.1	22.8	22.7
Norfolk	11.4	14.8	7.6	20.3	24.1	23.9
Richmond	12.0	17.8	6.9	18.6	23.7	23.7
Savannah	11.1	17.9	8.3	18.9	23.5	22.8
Washington, D. C	10.6	15.1	7.7	16.3	22.3	21.2
Winston-Salem	11.8	21.3	8.8	22.3	25.4	26.4
East South-Central:						
Birmingham	10.3	17.0	9.1	18.3	23.1	22.4
Jackson, Miss	14.3	15.3	10.0	22.9	23.7	24.8
Knoxville	12.4	16.7	8.6	20.2	23.2	23.1
Louisville	11.1	15.5	9.4	19.4	24.9	22.5
Memphis	10.8	17.0	8.7	17.9	21.8	21.7
Mobile	11.6	17.6	8.1	16.2	20.3	19.2
West South-Central:						
Dallas	12.0	19.7	9.1	19.7	25.7	24.4
El Paso	13.8	19.5	9.4	19.5	23.4	23.3
Houston	10.5	16.3	7.2	16.0	20.5	20.4
Little Rock	11.1	16.0	8.4	20.5	24.2	24.9
New Orleans	11.4	18.4	8.8	18.0	24.4	22.1
Oklahoma City	9.7	21.7	9.1	19.5	24.3	24.0
Mountain:						
Butte	12.2	15.2	10.3	19.6	22.3	24.5
Denver	10.5	16.3	10.0	18.4	22.5	23.2
Salt Lake City	10.9	16.8	7.8	20.5	24.3	23.6
Tucson	11.3	16.1	*12.3	17.4	20.5	20.5
Pacific:						
Los Angeles	11.7	15.8	*11.1	14.6	19.0	18.4
Portland, Oreg	12 2	17.1	*12.2	18.3	20.8	21.5
San Francisco	12.5	15.4	*12.3	14.9	19.2	19.6
Seattle	13.8	17.5	*13.0	19.2	20.9	21.7

SAVING LAND FOR TOMORROW'S CONSUMERS

[Concluded from page 8]

grow into gullies, making deep gashes in the soil, destroying the land. Water in these gullies, carrying valuable particles, runs on through the valleys, into rivers and then to the sea. Every year, the experts say, there is enough supersoil carried out by the Mississippi into the sea to build 1,250 farms of 160 acres each with twice the depth of the average upland soil of America.

DRY parched land, left behind, is the perfect stage for dust storms which pick up fine earth particles and carry them hundreds and thousands of miles away, deposit them, perhaps, on good lands.

MUCH of our land does not have to be exposed to these wastes from wind and flowing water. It can be used to furnish people with the foods and fibers they need and still hold much of its topsoil if it is used wisely.

EXPERTS have been studying this problem. The Soil Conservation Service of the Federal Government has been at work for 2 years putting this expert knowledge into practical use. Many farmers have been working with them and on their own to conserve their soil.

PREVENTING erosion, briefly, means doing such things as these; taking out of cultivation, lands that are not suitable—lands that are too dry, too hilly, too poor—and planting these with trees and grass and other protective coverings; terracing; crop rotation; contour cultivation; strip cropping.

ANOTHER job, however, must be done, too. This is to rebuild fertility of good lands, by using better farming practices, a better balanced type of agriculture.

TANGLED up in these problems of soil conservation are important economic difficulties. In another issue we will explain some of the major reasons why farmers have let this wastage go on and what are the inducements now to put a stop to it.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR EGG LAWS?

[Concluded from page 15]

TOPS in the United States grades are "U. S. Special" eggs, but these are seldom found on the market. More frequently the best grade found in retail shops is "U. S. Extra", an excellent breakfast egg. Third grade is "U. S. Standard", the kind sometimes in the grade "B" basket. Bottom grade is "U. S. Trade", suitable for cooking dishes where egg flavor does not count so much.

"U. S. Standard" eggs, sold under seals authorized by the Department of Agriculture, must be marked in addition "Retail grade B". On "U. S. Specials" and "U. S. Extras" sold under certificate of quality merchants may use—but this is not required—the additional designation "Retail grade AA" and "Retail grade A", respectively.

FIFTEEN States are using these United States standards. They are: Colorado, Louisiana, Indiana, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, and Washington.

STATE standards, some of them differing only slightly from the Federal ones, are in effect in 20 States. In the table on page 14 we list the grade names in these States. Definitions of these grades can be obtained from the State Departments of Agriculture. In half of the States the grading of eggs according to these standards is compulsory.

THIRTEEN States which have not adopted Federal standards nor grades of their own are: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Idaho, Kansas, Missouri, Mississippi, New Mexico, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, South Dakota, West Virginia, and Texas.

SIZE of eggs, as well as freshness, is an important value measure for consumers. One dozen small eggs may weigh a third less than a dozen large eggs. At least 24 States define standard sizes for the eggs sold within their borders. On page 15 we list these standards.

Our Point of View

THE CONSUMERS' GUIDE believes that consumption is the end and purpose of production.

To that end the CONSUMERS' GUIDE emphasizes the consumer's right to full and correct information on prices, quality of commodities, and on costs and efficiency of distribution. It aims to aid consumers in making wise and economical purchases by reporting changes in prices and costs of food and farm commodities. It relates these changes to developments in the agricultural and general programs of national recovery. It reports on cooperative efforts which are being made by individuals and groups of consumers to obtain the greatest possible value for their expenditures.

The producer of raw materials—the farmer—is dependent upon the consuming power of the people. Likewise, the consumer depends upon the sustained producing power of agriculture. The common interests of consumers and of agriculture far outweigh diversity of interests.

While the CONSUMERS' GUIDE makes public official data of the Departments of Agriculture, Labor, and Commerce, the point of view expressed in its pages does not necessarily reflect official policy but is a presentation of governmental and nongovernmental measures looking toward the advancement of consumers' interests.

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